Wednesday February 28 1996



# heGuard

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The pilot who turned the tables on Little Havana

## to Fidel



**Parents** 

## Children Ost to cults

Society

### A terrible kind of beauty in this not-so-pleasant land

G2 pages 10/11



## Major moves to kickstart Irish talks

Michael White and

OHN Major and John Bruton will meet in London today to launch their latest drive to revive the Northern Ireland peace pro-cess by naming a date for allparty talks - but only after elections whose format is cre-ating huge tensions between

the province's politicians. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach spoke by telephone last night to finalise details for today's brief summit. The breakthrough came as the row between the nine Official Ulster Unionist MPs and ministers at the Northern Ireland Office over Monday night's vote on the Scott report flared

to a dangerous level.

In an extraordinary running battle on the airwaves, John Major and his senior colleagues insisted that "there is no deal, not now, not yesterday, not tomorrow, not at all" with the Unionists — the nationalist Social Demo-or any of its rivals — over the cratic and Labour Party, who peace process in return for saw Mr Major in mid-morn-support in fighting off ing, sounded cheerier — not Labour's attack in the arms-

to-Iraq affair. The row overshadowed renewed optimism that the peace process can be kick-started into life via early elections and a restored IRA ceasefire, thanks to flexibility

covernments Official Dublin sources said Mr Major had now agreed to their proposals for Daytonstyle proximity talks, in which all the parties will meet under the same roof but not necessarily around the same table to clear the way for full pecotiations. These will be called "intensive multilateral discussions" and Dublin is pushing for a start

and finish date. Dublin continued to insist that a specific date for such talks must form part of any Anglo-Irish communique. The Prime Minister's office confirmed that that was now

Mr Major's wish. Sinn Fein warned that unless the date came well before the sectarian "marching sea in June, a renewed

#### Poll highlights

Despite the bornts 46% of Britons think the peace process is still continuing.

They put 58% of the blame for the breakdown it file peace process on the IPA 20% on the Government.

Pialf the population frinks Gerry Adams knew the IRA was ending its ceasefire, only a quarter believes he didn't

Some of Catholics want Northern Ireland to retain some kind of link with Britain

S7% of Catholics think the border 'does not matter and is not worth arguing about'

Nearly a third of Britons think Northern Ireland should become an

ceasefire — Sinn Fein's de facto passport to the talks —

But John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Demo-

with the Unionists looked, to

all but the most suspicious MPs. like proof of the "no

deals" piedge. Before the date for all-party

talks — the goal which eluded

17 months of IRA ceasefire — is reached, the "intensive multilateral discussions"

would be used to decide upon

which form Northern Ireland

Austin

will be difficult to secure.

Public backs compromise

Markin Linton

HE British government can rely on strong public support if it takes a more flexible approach to the IRA in the Irish peace talks, according to a joint Guardian-Irish Times poll

published today. Although most people blame the IRA for the breakdown of the peace process, many of them think the British government should make the first move towards its resumption by setting an early date for all-party talks. Only one precondition — the resumption of the IRA Details, page 5

chances of success, hence the

elections would take.

to a 90-seat assembly

mder discussion.

six "Mitchell principles"

the Dail that the views of the

two governments were con-verging on agreeing a date for

ill-party talks. Sinn Fein's president,

Gerry Adams, called for

'clear, unambiguous public assurances' for a firm date

There would be more absen-

British government could not go, the Dublin government could not go, and we certainly Each party's preferred for-mula increases its own

wouldn't. ist Party for a list system in which the whole province would be one constituency.

Mr Trimble spent much of the day denying that any horse-trading between his party and the Government had taken Mr Trimble wants each of debate on the Scott report.

Northern Ireland's 18 constit-The Ulster Unionists' decision to vote with Labour prompted highly-placed accusencies to elect five members The version finally chosen sations that the Unionist would affect the timetable. leader had been rebuffed in his "clandestine" attempts to Paisley "list" plan would require months of prepara-tion. Mr Hume's all-Ireland trade votes on Scott for concessions on the peace process Scarcely concealing his referendum scheme is also contempt for the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Unionists are stressing the Mayhew, and his deputy, Michael Ancram, Mr Trimble need for parties to accept the

which renounce using vio-lence. They fear Dublin will their own attempted deals with Ian Paisley's Democratic accused them of "pure invenmake it easier for Sinn Fein. Unionists over the electoral Yesterday, Mr Bruton told system for the proposed He remained courteous towards Mr Major even as he dismissed claims that his chief whip, Martin Smith, had

offered to sustain the Government's fragile two-vote major-ity for its last 12 months in office in return for sympa thetic treatment

"without any preconditions".

Last night Dr Paisley said
of talks including Sinn Fein: Scott aftermath, page 5; tees than ever, because the Letters, page 8



Pat Buchanan, the Republican front runner with Bob Dole for the latest US primary in Arizona, makes the most of a photo opporutnity at the OK Corral in Tombstone yesterday.KO'd at the OK Corral, page 2

### Blair to end union sponsorship

Chief Political

NE of the chief remaining historic links be-tween the Labour Party and the unions is to be severed today when the party's national executive is expected to agree to end union sponsorship of MPs and par-liamentary candidates. The move is part of reforms prompted by the Nolan Com-mittee's call to reduce paid

outside influence on MPs Nearly 150 of the 230 Labour MPs are sponsored, including the Labour leader, Tony Blair, and the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown. The national executive will

decide that unions should no longer explicitly sponsor indi-vidual MPs, parliamentary candidates or would-be candi-dates, but instead sponsor constituency parties.

The change, first touted by Mr Blair six months ago, has been delicately negotiated with the unions and most of the most of the unions and most of the most of the

Shadow cabinet's cash support

☐ Tony Blair: sponsored by Transport and General Work-John Prescott: sponsored

2500 per year to constituency. 22.100 election expenses.
22.5,000 per year for researcher.

David Blunkett: Unison
pays 40 per cent of election expenses; sored by TGWU;
'] Robin Cook: sponsored by

Clare Short: Unison pays

them now support the reform. A potential candidate sponhad an advantage over rivals in any parliamentary selec-tion, since the constituency knew he or she could bring union financial backing.

The new procedure will mean that unions are not able

RMT. Receives help from Unison with research;

Harriet Harman: sponsored by TGWU. Unison funds ☐ Chris Smith: sponsored by

☐ Jack Straw: sponsored by GMB; ☐ Ron Davies: sponsored by TGWU; ☐ George Robertson: sponsored by GMB which pays

Communication Workers

2600 per year to constituency constituency itself, after the election is made.

The Labour leadership hopes the reform will deprive the Conservatives of the accu-

MPs first received contribu-tions from unions towards the expenses of their electoral organisations, and maintenance payments, at a time when no offical salaries were paid. But as MPs' salaries

sation that Labour MPs are creatures of their union.

have risen, the relative value of union support has fallen. Under the current rules, first established in 1933 and last revised in 1979, unions cannot pay more than 80 per cent of the election expenses of an MP, or more than £600 per year to a constituency party. Between the 1950s and 1970s, around a quarter of all Labour candidates were sponsored, but Labour hopes the

new rules will encourage unions to sponsor marginal seats, rather than MPs in safe

Labour seats, which is the

current patiern. In the future, Labour is also likely to tackle the practice of unions — notably Unison — directly funding the work and salaries of front-bench researchers. The unions will probably be asked to place the money into a central fund for distribution to the front bench by the party, so reduc-ing claims that unions are directing the policy work of front-benchers.

Green credentials, page 4;

### Making a pig's ear out of a lost purse

Keith Harper Transport Editor

HEN Morine Jeffers found her purse was missing on a train journey from London to Reading she rang Paddington station and was relieved to hear it was waiting for her in lost property
- she had left it at the ticket office by mistake. But when she arrived to collect it three days later,

she got a nasty shock: Rail-track employees had, with-out her knowledge, removed £9.50 of the £75 in the purse. The removal covered a £2 handling charge,



she was told, plus 10 per cent of the amount she had "I was astonished." Ms Jef-

fers said last night. This smacks of theft. Nothing justifies the unauthorised removal of money from a private and confidential personal belonging."
Railtrack last night confirmed that it takes the handling charge and a 10 per cent levy of lost money

over £50, with a ceiling of Before Railtrack took over running the network, British Rail used to charge

a nominal sum, usually less than £2, for handing back lost property.

A Railtrack spokesman said last night it would apologise to Ms Jeffers because the wrong procedures were followed. The correct procedure would have been to take all the money, put it in the bank, and give her a cheque for the amount due to her after the deductions.

Ms Jeffers, a student from Wimbledon, south London, said the charges were "arbitrary in the extreme." She has complained to

the rail regulator, John Swift. His office said a code of practice was being drawn up which would en-sure that charges for return of property well publicised.

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Canon

### **MP** fights Guardian 'insult'

LABOUR MP told the High Court yesterday he was offended by a Parliamentary ketch in the Guardian in February last year which al-leged he had foul-mouthed a broadcaster in Soho, instead of apologising, after acciden-tally bumping into him.

George Howarth, MP for Knowsley North and shadow home affairs minister, denies the incident ever took place. He claims the article, by Simon Hoggart, caused him grave embarrassment and greatly injured his reputa-tion.

On the opening day of his libel action against Guardian Newspapers Ltd, it was claimed the article would lead readers to believe Mr Howarth was boorish, foul-mouthed and uncivilised and/or a drunkard and not an appropriate person to be a shadow minister.

The Guardian denies that the article could be so interpreted, but claims that even if the words do beautiful

ing, they are true. Mr Howarth told the court he rarely went to Soho and had never met Fritz Spiegl, comments about "whingeing the Merseyside broadcaster, musician and writer whom he is alleged to have knocked into. Mr Spiegl wrote about his encounter with an unnamed Merseyside MP in the Liverpool Daily Post, and sent



debate on Sunday pub open-ing, for which Mr Howarth was a Labour spokesman, Mr Hoggart used Mr Spiegl's de-

"I feel very offended ... it never happened, and to make out that I'm the sort of person it is out of character.

ian cites other incidents. It claims the MP punched Mail on Sunday Journalist Alan Cochrane on one occasion in a Commons bar. Mr Howarth said he had "had some words" with Mr Cochrane over an article about his sending his 11-year-old son to a school outside Knowsley

But according to Mr Howarth, it was Mr Cochrane, "the worse for drink" who was the aggressor. "He came lunging at me shouting abusively," he told the court.
He said he thought Mr Cochrane might strike him and put his hand up. "I think it may have caught him," he said.

Mr Henry the day it is made to the court. Mr Howarth admits writing

to Guardian columnist Ed-Liverpudlians", but he denied tacking on a postscript telling Mr Pearce he could "fuck off". The MP told the court he was making a joke to lighten the tone. 'I put if you are not prepared to accept these arguments, you can asterisk, as-terisk, asterisk off."

Manuel Barca, reminded Mr Howarth that he had not taken offence over an earlier remark in a sketch by Mr Hoggart, that he looked "like a serial axe murderer". Mr etter that was printed in the Guardian, warning that "appearances are not always leceptive"

#### First night

### Exploration of the language of love

All in The Timing Nottingham Playhouse

UNT and Dennis, the TV comedy team, star in David Ives's All In The Timing at Nottingham Playhouse, six wry, language-ob-sessed plays, seen Off-Broadway in 1994, which frequently invoke the name of Woody Allen. The difference is that lves, lacking Allen's Borschtbelt, stand-up experience. does not always go for the punch-line.

Inevitably some of ives's half dozen are better than others. I warmed very much to Sure Thing which deals, in Ayekbournish fashjon, with the different routes a café-cor versation between a man and reaction to her reading Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury can propel them towards social disaster or to the altar. lves's ingenuity also surfaces in The Universal Language, in which teacher and pupil fall in love through exploring an

Esperanto-like language. Ives's forte is clearly a deep romanticism that emerges through the potential mine-field of language. But, when heterosexual union is not at idea to death. In Words. Words, Words, he swiftly demolishes the proposition that three monkeys typing into infinity could produce Hamlet

Even a playlet about Trotsky's miraculous survival for 36 hours with a mountain-climber's axe stuck in his head runs out of steam.

The one new piece in the collection, Degas — C'est Moi. confirms Ives is at his best when his cerebral and romanic instincts are battling it out It is based on the Thurberish idea of an average New York notes of an average new 10.1, guy imagining he is the great artist. Although finally disil-lusioned, he learns to accept the beauty of diurnal reality through observing his girl friend's fluency of movement. What might simply have been an intellectual conceit turns into something quite touching

through Ives's access of feeling. Although the plays cry out for an all-American cast in an intimate space, director Hugh Wooldridge does his best to cover up the culture-gap. Oddly, Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis rarely get the chance to work together. When they do the results are good, but the acting honours are taken by Debra Beaumont, especially as the earnest language stu-dent, and by Mabel Aitken as a

sharp-tongued café-customer and a waitress. Ives palpably has a talent; but the real test will come when he translates his Woody Allen-type tension between head and heart to the demands of a full-length play.

Theatro, G2 pages 12-13

scription of the incident, but named the MP. Mr Howarth told the court

who goes wandering around the streets shouting abuse . . . In justification, the Guard-

Counsel for the Guardian

A Parliamentary sketch was "something ephemeral and fleeting and not to be taken too seriously." sug-gested Mr Barca. But when it came to a damaging allega-tion about an incident that had not taken place, Mr Howarth felt, readers did not differentiate between a news story and a sketch.
The case continues

#### Thirteen towns added to list of Casino sites as bookies are allowed to advertise

proposed relaxation did not go far enough. Alan Gooden-ough, chief executive of the Ritz casino owner. London

Clubs, said yesterday's par-tial shift towards regulating gambling as a commercial bingo licences on the grounds of "insufficient demand". rather than a social phenomenon may prove unstoppable. Shares in the bingo giant Limits on the extent to which Rank Organisation jumped on the news, as did those of Bass, owner of the Coral bookmakoperators can subsidise prizes would be scrapped, and the limit on national-game ers, Ladbroke and London Clubs.

The proposals, published nearly a year later than planned, represent a response gaming industry, notably the impact of the National Lottery and competition from overseas gaming centres. Mr Kirkhope said the mea-sures were "a balanced pack-age of reform" designed to

A long way from Dartford. . . Sharon Stone and friends in Casino, the latest hit film with a gambling theme

added to the current list of 63 areas in which casinos may be sited. They are Oxford, Slough, Peterborough, Swindon, Gloucester, Hastings. Ipswich, Croydon, Dartford, Redbridge, Folkestone, Morecambe and Weymouth.

The shake-up — announced by the Home Office yesterday — is already generating controversy. Junior minister Timothy Kirkhope said he would be looking at legalising side-betting on the National Lottery. But the heritage department, fearing the loss of update rules dating from the late 1960s. In a reference to the concerns of that time, he pledged: "Regulation will be maintained to ensure the industry stays crime free". These proposals will go out

partment, fearing the loss of for consultation until May 31. The most radical measure is the effective severance of Britain's 970 bingo clubs from tough controls on the 119 casinos. The consultation paper described the game as "a very

popular, low-risk form of gambling". Under the plans, bingo sites

Gambling controls to be swept away

Lottery pressure prompts deregulation of £800 million bingo industry

will no longer have to form members-only clubs, and the 24-hour "cooling-off" period between joining and playing will be scrapped. Punters will be able to play on impulse. All advertising restrictions would go, as would licensing justices' powers to refuse

multiple hingo prizes.
For casinos, the package moves towards abolishing the members-only principle for "hard" gambling. The 48-hour

"cooling-off" period is halved and punters will be able to apply for membership by post instead of in person. The limit of six jackpot machines per club should be in-creased to 64, and the £250 jackpot prize limit either

Licensing hours — currently limited to midnight — should be brought into line with those of nightclubs (2am, and 3am in central London), and limited advertising should be permitted in tele phone directories and tourist

raised or abolished.

Casinos and bingo clubs will be permitted to accept payment by debit but not credit cards.

# Britain's casinos 33

London has just 18% of the for 70% of all money gambled. 🧬 Haif a million people ptsy bingo every day. More than £800m le bet on bingo a year.

### **Big Pat** KO'd at the OK Corral

Martin Walker In Tombetone, Arize

IKE an elderly legend of the old West suddenly facing a machine gun, Pat Buchanan, the protectionist Republican candidate, stood helpless in Tombstone's OK Corral yesterday as the forces of global capitalism de-ployed against him.

As Mr Buchanan posed

with a Colt 45 and a gunslinger's snarl at the scene of the most famous shoot-out of the Wild-West, the chairmen of Senator Robert Dole's presidential campaign announced that Germany's BMW company was bringing 2,000 new jobs; with a \$250 million (£185 million) expansion, to South Carolina. The state's arrives on Saturday is the

primary on Saturday is the next on the campaign trail. "Pat Buchanan wants to put a tariff wall around America that would keep these good jobs out," warned the current and past governors of the state, co-chairmen of the Dole campaign, as Mr Bu-chanan's photo-op suddenly took on the funereal trappings of Boot Hill.

Opinion polls had the pri-mary too close to call as the went to the polls yesterday. A massive final television ad-vertising blitz by the million-aire publisher Steve Forbes steam-rollered Mr Buchan-

ans. Har weater negations campaign.
Privately, Mr Buchanan's campaign staff fear that their expected small majority on polling day will be outweighed by the massive effort. Mr Forbes put into getting absence ballots in December and January when he was and January, when he was riding high in the polls. As the news of the BMW in-

vestment came in, Mr Bu-chanan sniffed a new conspiracy. He railed against the European Union — "another arm of the New World Order'
arm of the New World Order'
which, he said, was aimed at
seiting up a world government "to steal away the sovereignty of these United States.
And I'm gonna take it back.
Take it back, America."

The visit to the OK Corral had been a clever idea for a campaign gimmick. It is now a museum, where tife-sized models of Wyatt Earp and his sheriff brother and the bandits they gumed down stand with revolvers drawn on the site of the gun battle on Octo-

ber 26, 1881. One of the bandits was called Billy Clanton, and a little chalk transformed his name board to read "Billy Clinton", so Mr Buchanan could strike a glowering pose and promise a shoot-out in the November election.

But when Mr Buchanan ous of the Wild West burish that overlooks the old mining town of Tombstone, he found it under new management Boot Hill Graveyard — and Jewish Memorial", said the sign, deterring his caravan from its planned stop.

Trafalgar House

#### Trafalgar faces billion-pound takeover by Norwegian shipyards conglomerate

"good cause" money to book-makers, said this "is some-

thing ... we are adamant we

Meanwhile, parts of the in-

dustry were suggesting the

do not want to see".

WEEPING reforms planned for Britain's

away from social controls and

towards gambling on demand

dustry will be almost com-pletely deregulated, bookies

will be allowed to advertise in

newspapers and jackpot ma-chines may be able to pay out

added to the current list of 53

thousands of pounds. Thirteen towns would be

The £800 million bingo in-

gaming laws propose a fundamental shift

Roger Cowe on a new business challenge

THE QE2 and other remnants of the Trafalgar House empire are in danger of slipping into the hands of a Norwegian conglomerate in a potential billionpound takeover.

Kvaerner, the Norwegian owner of shipyards, pulp and paper mills and oil interests, stressed yesterday that it would only go ahead with the agreement of Trafalgar's board. Two months ago the Norwegian com-



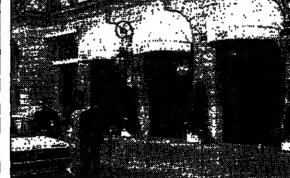
The QE2 . . . reputation damaged by disastrous cruise

£360 million offer.

Trafalgar's directors will wait for a formal offer from Kværner, but their decision will be influenced by the interests of the Hong Kong-based Jardine em pire. The Jardine subsidiary, HongKong Land, owns a quarter of Trafalgar's

pany was given a bloody nose by shareholders of northern building company Amec, after only 10 per cent of them voted for a cent of them voted for

At its peak, Trafalgar owned prize assets such as London's Ritz hotel as well as the Cunard shipping line and the Daily Express group. It was built up in the 1960s and 1970s by Nigel Broakes, who was knighted by Margaret Thatcher in 1984.



.. once a prize asset but sold last year for £75m

son rocket to the top of the industrial pile. In 1991 Trafalgar bought Davy Corpo-ration, a high-quality con-struction company fallen on hard times. But one of Davy's worst contracts, to build a North Sea oil rig. landed Trafalgar with huge losses and led to final disillusionment with Sir Nigel

Despite his pedigree, Sir and his second in com-Nigel failed to capitalise on mand, Sir Eric Parker. the 1980s free-for-all which Trafalgar was forced to Trafalgar was forced to ask shareholders for more money in the first of four share issues. They also opened the door to Hong-Kong Land, the Jardine subsidiary, which snapped up 15 per cent of the com-pany in October 1992. Sir Nigel and Sir Eric soon gave way to Jardine appointees. Meanwhile,

Cunard's reputation was

hit by the disastrous 1994 Christmas cruise of the QE2, which resulted in mil-lions of pounds of damages to customers who found refitting work still continuing while they were at sea. New chief executive Nigel Rich concentrated on shed-ding unwanted assets in an attempt to focus on interna-tional construction engineering which remains Trafalgar's most promising



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The Guardian Wednesday February 28 1996

**NEWS 3** 





'In the summertime l couldn't sit in my back garden because of the smell. We got big black flies buzzing over the fence all the time'

on Flossie the pig



Flossie the Vietnamese pot-bellied plg at the centre of the dispute between Paul Telford, and Frank Bray, above left

### £1bn debt write-off for rail sale

Keith Harper and Alex Brumme

HE Government has agreed to write off £1 billion of Railtrack's notional £1.5 billion debt to make the company more attractive to potential investors and to pre-

pare it for sell-off in May.

The deal has been confirmed in a letter from the Government to Bob Horton Railtrack's chairman. It reveals that ministers have approved a debt reduction to £589 million, a deal which Mr Horton will regard as some-

thing of a victory.

The move was attacked by Labour's shadow transport secretary, Clare Short, as a "disgraceful and cynical move designed to keep the British public in the dark while the Government manipulates considerable public

The £1.5 billion debt figure was arrived at by accountants preparing Railtrack for sale based on information gathered since it started operating

The decision to write off the money is a serious climbabout being seen as too soft in previous privatisations, had held out for better terms. As part of the deal, Mr Hor-ton has had to agree to invest

more than 2500 million into the Thameslink 2000 project, joining services between porth and south London. In a Commons announcement vesterday, the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, said the project would quadruple existing services from six to 24 trains an hour in each

Sir George said the Government would be expected to add about £100 million of the

£650 million cost. The centre piece will be a new station at Channel Tunnel rail link terminal, the contract for which has been secured by a consor tium including Richard

Branson. Mr Horton has beeen fighting an open battle with the Department of Transport to reduce Railtrack's debt. The £1 billion reduction will give Railtrack's balance sheet a more respectable look in the City and make its flotation go more smoothly, unless Labour comes out with a posi-tive statement that a Labour government would re-nationalise Railtrack. It also emerged yesterday

that the Government has de-cided to sell the whole of Railtrack and not the 51 per cent to which it is already committed. This would make it even more difficult for Labour to renationalise. Labour has been reluctant to reveal its plans for fear of being drawn into an argument about costs. Sir George said that the Thameslink project would involve two new rail flyovers at New Cross and Bermondsey and rebuilding at existing

stations. It would also enhance links between Gatwick and Stan-sted airports, and create additional track and stations.

Confirmation of Railtrack's involvement in the project, due to be ready in six years. came when Sir George indi-cated that it would carry out the "remaining infrastructure works" including development at St Pancras station. Ms Short welcomed the announcement but said it had been delayed by at least five years and would cost the taxpayer much more because of privatisation.

### Pet pig causes stink between neighbours Aitken apology

LONG-RUNNING dispute between neigh-bours over Flossie, a 2001b Vietnamese ple claimed they had been

driven out of their garden by the animal's stench. Frank and Mary Bray had been looking forward to a quiet life when they moved into their semi-detached bungalow in Tynemouth, Tyneside, more than seven years ago with their more conventional pet, a labra-dor-collie called Jet.

ford, a 35-year-old company director, moved in next door he began to complain

court yesterday after a con- the dog then blasted the sound through the walls to annoy his neighbours. "It would go on for about 20 to 25 minutes and it would reset itself and start again 10 minutes later," Mr Bray told the court. "Once it went from 2pm to 7pm then came on again at 8.15pm until 2am the next day." There were also com-

plaints that the computer

engines, slammed doors and tinkered with his jet ski at all hours of the day

But the crunch came when Mr Telford pur-chased Flossie. She was kept in an outhouse at the rear of the bungalow, free to roam the back garden which was allowed to be-

come overgrown.

The court heard that a pig like Flossie can produce between three and four kilos of slurry every day, but Mr

But soon after Paul Tel- firm boss revved his cars' | Telford had made no proper | sell up and move. Their | for Mr Telford, said a docord, a 35-year-old company | engines, slammed doors | arrangements to deal with | once cherished bungalow is | tor's report from the Free-trector, moved in next | and tinkered with his jet | the problem. Excrement | on the market for £69,950. | man | Hospital, Newcastle, and urine were allowed to about Jet's barking, Newcastle upon Tyne county
court was told.

Mr Teiford tape-recorded
the dog then blasted the

doubt of the day and arther were allowed to lie around the garden, producing not only an appalling smell, but attracting flies, mice and rats, which invaded the Brays garden.

The ford, "Mr Bray and "quite an obsessive guite an obsessive the dog then blasted the peared in the walls.

That's what the estate agents have told me. I had there different estate more correct than the aver-Traps set by Mr Bray, aged

61, caught up to three dozen rodents. "In the summertime I couldn't sit in my back gar-den because of the smell," Mr Bray told the court. "We got big black flies

buzzing over the fence all the time." For four years he and his wife have been trying to "Unfortunately, no one

agents -- and two of them have given up on it." Mr Bray, a retired fac-

tory inspector with a history of heart problems, has had a heart attack since lannching his legal case. He claimed Mr Telford was waging a vendetta against him and had caused 75 per cent of his health problems.

described Mr Bray as hav-

age person," he conceded. "I wouldn't say I am obsessive. It comes from the profession I follow, being an inspector in engineering. Everything has to be mi-

nutely correct." The hearing, in which the Brays are seeking damages and an order to stop Mr Telcent of his bealth problems. | ford being a nuisance, con-Phillip Walling, acting tinues today.

Assassinations of business

men and gangsters, often

reportedly over minor debts

and territorial squabbles,

have become common in Rus-

sia in recent years, particu-

larly in Moscow and St

Petersburg Murders run at the rate of

## over arms firm

David Hencke, Westminster

to register a £10,000 directorship with Astra Defence Systems Ltd, the company being investigated for sending arms

to Iran via Singapore. He is the first MP to apologise to Parliament since the appointment of Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, as part of the Nolan Committee recommendations after "cash for questions" scandals. He apologised directly to the Committee on Standards

and Privileges. The ruling by the commis-sioner is a fresh embarrassment for the Government, coming a day after it just sur-vived a Commons vote over

the Scott Report. It is also unfortunate timing for Mr Aitken as he will next Wednesday be questioned by the Commons Trade and Industry Committee about his knowledge of the company's covert military exports to Iran while he was on the board from 1988 to 1990.

Sir Gordon has made his ruling following a complaint from Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallsend, that he should have declared his directorship when Astra changed its name from BMARC (British Manufacture and Research Company). Sir Gordon, after checking at Companies House, discovered there were two companies registered as BMARC and Astra, during the period in question. He concluded after legal page 9

advice that since at various Correspondent

ONATHAN AITKEN, the former chief secretary to the Treasury, has apologised to Parliament for failing which would have been used in business correspondence.

Mr Byers complained that Mr Aitken drew a distinction between the two companies to minimise the number of board meetings be attended at BMARC after the disclosures about the company's involve-ment in Project Lisi, a contract to supply naval guns to Singapore which ended up in Iran. He told the Times he had attended three BMARC meetings, but had attended five, two under the name

Mr Aitken says he had no intention to minimise his involvement, saying he had been approached by journalists late one evening about his The Times asked only about his involvement with BMARC so his secretary had provided them only with diary dates of BMARC board meetings. He realised he should have in-cluded the Astra meetings after Mr Byers complained.

"At no time have I intentionally sought to draw a proper distinction between BMARC and Astra Defence Systems, neither have I made attempts to hide my attendance at board meetings." Mr Byers said yesterday: Jonathan Aitken drew a clear distinction between the two companies — a distinction he

failed to make in the register. Politics, page 5; Letters, page 8; Richard Shepherd,

### Innocent Briton dies in Russian mafia shooting

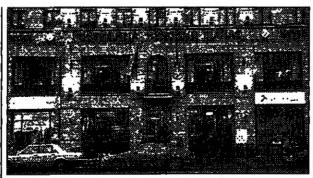
James Meek in Moscow, **Duncan Campbe** and Yevgenia Borisova

- 1 p 13

among three people killed when Kalashnikoy-wielding hitmen opened fire on a suspected gangster in a St Petersburg hotel, Russian police said yesterday. John Hyden, aged 41, from the Edinburgh area, was apparently hit by accident as he sat alone on Monday drinking coffee in the Cafe Vienna part of the five-star Nevsky Polace Hotel. He worked for rance notes, he worked for the London company of Sin-clair, Roche and Temperley. "We understand he was not the intended target," a spokesman at the British em-best in Moscow said bassy in Moscow said.

Two men walked into the cafe with coats over their arms, produced Kalashnikov automatic rifles from under the coats and sprayed bullets at a group of men, killing two and seriously injuring a third. BRITISH lawyer was They escaped, leaving their weapons at the scene - a trademark of Russian hitmen. Yesterday there were still bullet-holes in the cafe's windows but increased security at the hotel. The killing of a foreigner in such circumstances is seen as highly damaging to the city's attempts to establish itself as a business and tourism centre.

Mr Hyden, a Russian speaker who was married, had not been staying at the hotel and appeared to have simply stopped for a coffee before returning to Moscow. He is understood to have moved to



Murder scene . . . The city-centre Nevsky Palace Hotel

Russia in 1994 to work in business development. For the past fortnight he had been a consul-tant legal specialist working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on a water project.

A hotel spokeswoman, Na talia Belik, said: "We were proud that we had the reputation of one of the safest places in the city and we paid a lot of attention to keeping this by us in St Petersburg during image and protecting our his time here."

on the situation in the city

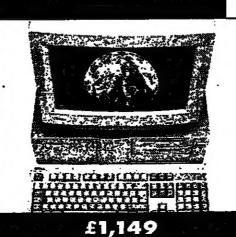
The other two men killed are understood to have been bodyguards of the intended victim, who was seriously in-jured and is under police guard in hospital. Police sources named him as Victor Gavrilenkov, a Russian busiman and a member of the Tambov criminal group. named after the city southeast of Moscow.

Philip Dacker, the managing partner of the Edinburgh law firm Dundas and Wilson. for whom Mr Hyden worked until 1994, said last night: "We are all desperately sad to learn of the untimely death of John Hyden. He played a key

about three a day in St Petersburg. a city of 5 million people. Police claim that they solve around 25 per cent of crimes involving foreigners. Last year, a Briton was in-jured in a shooting incident in a popular restaurant on Novy Arbat, in the centre of Moscow. According to one

version, the gunmen, walking through the restaurant after killing their victim in a back office, shouted at everyone to lie on the floor, but the Brit-ish man did not understand Russian and was shot dead.

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### **Blair puts** environment centre stage

Environment Correspondent

yesterday to cut. bills and create 50,000 jobs through a scheme to improve energy efsures aimed at putting the en-vironment at the centre of

In his first speech on the environment since becoming party leader Mr Blair said Labour was planning a transport policy designed to en-courage people to get out of their cars by offering attrac-tive alternatives.

Among the proposals was a parliamentary environmental audit committee which would keep government policies constantly under review, and a commitment to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 — a far tougher target than the Government's pledge of stabilisation by the year 2000.

Mr Blair's speech delighted environmental groups. Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth, said: "It is good to hear the Labour leader has understood that environmental protection, a healthy economy and social justice go hand in hand." Mr Blair, speaking at the

Royal Society in London last night, made a pitch for the Labour Party to be seen as the natural home of environmen-talists. "The essence of the left of centre is that it believes the individual prospers best within a strong, cohesive society, and that such a society has to be built around a mutual responsibility.

'Our relations are not simply market based. They require social and moral principles to underpin them. This

at a caravan site to stop a cockfight found four dead

birds in bags, Thames magis-trates were told yesterday.

copter, arrested 15 of them. As well as the four dead birds,

two badly injured cocks were

found at the site in Belvedere.

south-east London, on April 9 last year. Officers in Operation Fog-

"As soon as birds are in the

pit, the fight is on . . . the bird

that goes down two minutes

three times is deemed to be

The spectators fled, but

15 charged with watching

the rules of the pit. It read: when animals were placed

have to balance the interests of all - not just the producer economic growth, but the environment ... As everyone in society should have a stake in the economy, so we all have a stake in the health and integ-rity of the environment." He chided the Government

for failing to take action on global warming, saying that the ability to meet its current target was because of the switch from coal to gas and the serious recession. The enbeen cut.

Labour would change that with 20 per cent carbon diox ide cuts by 2010. He promised a nationwide energy effi-ciency scheme for homes, a new transport strategy en-couraging the use of swift and environmentally friendly forms of transport, and a part-nership with industry and business to drive down their emissions, Mr Blair sald the party had

to work constructively in Europe to ensure policies which did not destroy

competitiveness.

He said environment ver sus jobs and environment versus competitiveness were outdated ideas. Most industrialised countries wasted energy and resources and pro-duced far more pollution than was necessary for their level of economic activity.

Mr Blair said many good

initiatives had been taken by local authorities to improve the environment. Labour would place a duty on them to promote the economic, social and environmental well being

nised the cockfight, outlawed

horn found a board stating mals Act 1911 of being present tem," he said. "It is a sad day



The late duke reviewing his private army, the Atholl Highlanders, on his estate in 1988. The militia was given semi-official status by Queen Victoria

### South African inherits ancient Scots title

"Horrified" peers, family clash, land signed away. Erlend Clouston reports

N ELDERLY South African land surveyor was last night digestcockfight face fines and jail king the news that he had inherited the 293-year-old dukedom of Atholl, complete with Europe's only private army and an apartment in a 150 years ago, and that police found bundles of cash and notebooks on Malcolm 13th century Highland castle.
The elevation of John Mur-ray, aged 67, followed the death yesterday of his third Cooper, 51, who told them he believed the event was just an auction of game birds.

Police also found cockfighting equipment, including a set of scales and waxed twine for tying spurs on to the birds' heels. cousin, George Ian Murray the 10th duke, at the age of 64. The news was received with dismay by Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing di-rector of Burke's Peerage. Fifteen people are accused under the Protection of Ani-"This points up the weak-

nesses in the peerage sys-

fighting. Six face further horrified. charges, including involve-ment in organising cocklight. about the prospect of a comloser. Once the birds are ing and causing unnecessary moner succeeding to the loser. Once the birds are and causing unnecessary down in the pit, they must not suffering. Fourteen deny all country's sixth most senior the charges, the 15th failed to happear in court. They face things happen all doesn't abide by these rules must state before pitting his ing a cockfight and £5,000 or the large of Friendle large of doesn't abide by these rules must state before pitting his bird. Belvedere Rules six months' jail for cruelty. Applys." The hearing continues today.



for the other dukes I have fortune. Two days ago it together for the purpose of talked to -- they are revealed that the bachelor 10th duke, a former chairman seat. However, the estate's public relations team was Scotland was more relaxed of the Westminster Press group, had made over his anof his 70,000 acres to a charitable trust "to preserve it for

the people".

The revelation sparked speculation of a family fallcolm Innes of Edinsight ing-out, with Mr Murray de-Mr Murray has not been picted as the mercenary out-greatly enriched by his good sider punished for displaying

too commercial an attitude sons and a daughter, had his condolences. during an earlier inspection of the Murray's Perthshire The blood line that ties

visible. The 10th duke himself only succeeded to the title tions between the two men through convoluted family had been good. "There was no animosity," friction," a spokeswoman said. "The heir will be quite

links with the third duke, who died in 1774. Inquiries have been hampered by the have been hampered by the luke's reluctance to pass on information to genealogists.

"I assume it was because he with mambership usually Obituary, page 10 saddened to hear of the duke's death." Later she reported that Mr Murray, who has two duke's reluctance to pass on information to genealogists.

mediaeval Celtic earldom has acobite Lord George Murray esieged his brother, the Han-Castle — a family feud ended by the marriage of the respective son and daughter. The 11th duke will inherit

several thousand acres his predecessor had kept for his own use as well as the family crest which features a savage in chains and the tongue-twisting motio 'Furth For-tune and Fill the Fetters'. If he wants, he can assume the colonelship of the Atholi Highlanders, the 110-strong domestic militia which parades irregularly for delighted tourists in Blair Ath-oll and Edinburgh.

official status by Queen Victoria during a Royal expedition to the area in 1845. Although they have never fired a shot in anger they have an illustrious pedigree as descendants of the 77th. Athall Highlanders raised to fight in the American war of

confined to people who work and live in the vicinity of but the blue tunics, kilts and equipment are provided free. Mr Murray is expected to spend at least part of every year in the ducal quarters of building which is a familiar whitewashed landmark to travellers on the A9 linking ous tenants include Mary Queen of Scots and Prince

Most C

reject

Bonnie Prince Charle. ident of the Scottish Landowners Federation, had a mixed reputation among ento have the wrong attitude to predator control and dear casional run-ins with hill-walkers, such as when he way from a mountain pass to

"He wasn't that bad an egg just part of an old-fashioned tradition of running estates," said Dave Morris, Scottish officer of the Ramblers, "We look to the new duke to adopt towards sporting objectives and more towards conserva-

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

#### Beer today and Health chiefs told to gone tomorrow may be epitaph reverse cuts in care for the widget

stressing yesterday that rela-

Christopher Elliott

THE widget, immortal-ised by comedian Jack Dee in television commerised by comedian Jack
Dee in television commercials, is being canned by
Britain's largest independent independent

brews Bombardier. Eagle sick. and Fargo ales, is dropping The move represents a tacit the plastic device that releases gas when a can is of control of the control of the control of the control of the care from the control of the care from following customers' com-plaints that it masks the At the same time, ministers taste of stronger ales. The brewery plans to in-

troduce a new "nitrogen flush" system. But a spokesman for Guinness, which in 1989 was the first brewer to in-troduce the widget, following a £5 millionresearch programme, said the minally ill. company stood by its "wid-"Very sho getry", insisting there had been no complaints.

Scottish Courage, which brews Britain's biggest selling widget beer in John Smiths, selling 25 million cans a year, also denies receiving any complaints from customers.

Blair Athall to South Africa is

so dilute as to be almost in-

dent brewer.

Charles Wells, which the elderly and long-term

admission that the National Health Service has in parts of are acknowledging that "some" health authorities have been trying to introduce formal policies which would

deny care to patients properly entitled to it. In particular, authorities have been told they cannot impose unreasonable limits on care for the ter-"Very short time limits (for instance of the order of a cou-ple of weeks) are not appropre or weeks) are not appro-priate and any time limits should be applied flexibly in the light of individual circum-stances," authorities have been told.

Local policies on eligibility

take effect on April I, after controversy over a number of cases including that of a leeds man denied further ria last August. According to NHS care after suffering a stroke which left him unable to move, eat or talk.

The Department of Health has reviewed each authority's draft eligibility criteria and present provision for longterm care. The department's overall findings were set out

health authorities are likely to need to make changes to the level and/or balance of their spending on continuing ing gaps in services or to achieve a more appropriate balance of services".

The main areas identified vices and specialist support and rebabilitation. This im-plies that authorities will be told mainly not to re-open traditional geriatric care hospital beds, but to re-invest in other forms of care.

A Health Department spokesman confirmed there

ria last August. According to the circular, checks on local drafts have revealed "a number of points where eligibility criteria could be applied in a way which was not in line with the intention of the national guidance."

Criteria have to be sensioverall findings were set out yesterday in a circular to authorities, NHS trusts and social services directors.

\*\*The distribution of the circular is a person's needs — and need not hinge on continuing medical care, as opposed to

The department's comments lend official endorse-ment to criticisms of many of the draft criteria. A survey last week by the Alzheimer's Disease Society found that limits of as little as three weeks care for the terminally

ill were common.

John Bowis, junior health minister responsible for long-term care policy, said: "Health authorities should be able to implement the basic parts of their guidance by April More remains to be done

Labour said the circular showed the Government's folly in refusing to set for long-term care are due to | would be no extra funding for | national criteria for care.



Juan Pablo Roque had flown into Havana first class long before the incident that put US-Cuba relations back in the deep freeze of the Cold War. He had succeeded in duping one of America's most suspicious movements, burrowing his way into the heart of the other Cuba — the nation that lives in permanent exile

**G2** cover story

#### Meeting between old enemies raised alarm before Commons debate, and controversy over voting procedures



David Trimble on Monday night after his party had voted ended up voting against the Government

**Murky trail** from Ulster led PM to fall out with Trimble over crucial vote

Patrick Wintour reports on how the UUP



SDLP leader John Hume yesterday . . . his meeting last Friday with Ian Paisley had

HE trail that led John Major to fall out with his Ulster Unionist allies and yet win Mon-

day night's vote on the Scott report is murky, byzantine and dripping with intrigue. The Ulster Unionists, the largest unionist party and Mr Major's oldest ally, first smelt a rat on Friday, when a rare meeting took place between two old enemies — John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Demo-cratic Unionist Party (DUP).

Co's tite

fs told to

s in care

The two parties had agreed to back elections to the Peace Convention by a party list system in which the Northern Ireland electorate voted as a whole, rather than by the 18 parliamentary constituencies.

David Trimble, the new eader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), very much arguing for elections in 16 constituencies with five seats

His suspicions deepened when the DUP on Friday announced its three MPs would abstain in the Scott vote, throwing a rare Paisley life-line to Mr Major. Mr Trimble had wanted to

maximise the role of the Peace Convention in any allparty talks, and felt a full salaried 90-strong assembly elected from parliamentary would help es tablish a body in embryo to run Northern Ireland. The UUP also feared that a list system election would, in effect, turn into a piebiscite on the popularity of the party

On Saturday, Ken Maginnis, the UUP security spokes man, met a senior Northern Ireland Office official in Dungannon who told him the Govregards the Peace Convention ernment had clinched a secret as his baby and had long been arrangement with the DUP.

Mr Trimble despatched his rick Mayhew, the Northern deputy, John Taylor, to make Ireland Secretary, sent a let-further inquiries on Saturday let to Mr Maginnis, promisas to whether the DUP and SDLP had cut a deal with the Northern Ireland Office over and the DUP.

the voting system. By Sunday, the Ulster Unionists were openly suggesting for the first time that they might vote against the Government. Until then, it had been assumed they might abstain. The previous week Mr Trimble, a former law lecturer, had been suggesting that William Waldegrave probably deserved to "get off", but he felt the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, was clearly culpable.

By Sunday Mr Trimble had agreed to meet Mr Major be-fore the vote. The nine UUP MPs would meet at around 8.30pm on Monday to make their final decision, so maximising Mr Trimble's bargain-

ing there had been no deal betweeen the Government

Just before 6pm on Mon-day, the Ulster Unionist whip, the Rev Martyn Smyth, met the Conservative chief whip, Alistair Goodlad, and were soon joined "as if by chance" by the Northern Ireland minister Michael Ancram. Mr Smyth admits this meeting occurred at his instigation. He also accepts that he raised three or four concerns the method of election to

the Peace Convention, the need for the intensive proximity talks including Sinn Fein to be held after, rather than before, the elections, and the terms of any referendum north and south of the border. Mr Smyth insists the Scott vote, on a knife edge and only four hours away, was not dis-

It's linished for good

It's stalled at present

The IRA by announcing a resump

The Unionists by agreeing to talk:

tion of the ceasefire

it's still continuing

ent could have been unaware of the context in which their voting system for the election. "Do you think seriously I am discussions were taking place. going to give him a blank Mr Trimble met Mr Major

about half an hour later in the Prime Minister's room in the meeting was inconclusive. Westminster. By then, Mr Trimble was furious that offi-Mr Trimble then met his own party which agreed to vote against the Government. The cials were once again meeting Sinn Fein, so soon after the Docklands and Aldwych blasts. That anger was shared by the Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, going to win the vote. an Irishman with strong connections with the Unionists.

He felt Northern Ireland ministers would have been politically astute not to have held this meeting until Tuesday, after the vote. Accounts of this first of two Trimble-Major meetings con-flict, but all sides agree that Mr Major insisted he would not play Ulster politics with Scott. Mr Trimble is furious

All sides at least agree that

news rocked some ministers. It looks as if prior to that meeting, Tory whips had been quietly confident they were Shortly before 9pm, Mr Mawhinney sent a message to Mr

Trimble saying he wanted to meet. Mr Mawhinney urged him to see Mr Major again. Mr Smyth joined Mr Trimble and the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, with Mr Major. Mr Mawhinney was also present and, by some accounts, Mr Major was surprised to see Mr Trimble again. Both sides confirm Mr Heseltine's account that Mr Major only insisted that he DUP, a point he was making

It should remain part of UK

Linked both to UK and Irish Republic

The border matters and people

The border matters, but is not worth

The border does not matter and is not

should be prepared to fight for

risking any lives for

worth arguing about

Help to restore peace

Help to restore peace

Make the situation worse

Make little difference either way

Make the situation worse

Make the situation worse

Make little difference either way

How important do you think the border is between Northern

John Major has proposed an early election in Northern Ire-

fand and the Irish Republic asking people if they want to renounce violence and if they want all-party talks. Would that

within 45 minutes of the vote that might have triggered the collapse of the Government. ted inconclusively about the differing electoral systems.

Mr Trimble and Mr Smyth left, and the Ulster Unionists quickly reconfirmed amongst themselves on the Commons benches that they would vote against the Government.

At that point, Tory whips felt defeat was as likely as victory. Preparations were being laid for a confidence vote. Their chief hope lay in the un-predictable Rupert Allason, MP for Torbay. With less than 15 minutes to the vote, the public services minister Roger Freeman, gave Mr Allason an undertaking — of lim-ited value — that he will provide government time to debate further the use to which PII certificates should be put. Mr Allason, possibly in search of a get-out, grabbed

81

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### Unlikely alliance seeks voting benefit

David Sharrock ireland Corresponden

LECTIONS may be regarded by many as the purest expression of de-mocracy, but in Northern Ire-land they have often proved to be a source of more

the point, with each party adopting positions which they trust will leave them "on top" after an election. This is particularly true o the two Unionist parties which have for years con-tested the right to speak on behalf of the majority Protes-

The latest wrangling proves

tant community. Last Friday saw the highly unusual creation of an alli ance between the nationalist John Hume's SDLP and the hardline unionist Ian Pais ley's Democratic Unionists against David Trimble's Ulster Unionists - Northern

Ireland's largest party.

Mr Trimble wants — but, it appears, will not get — an election based upon the 18 Westminster constituencies using the single transferable vote system with five seats in each, leading to a 90-member

time-limited assembly.
The DUP wants a "list sys tem" election, by propor tional representation, to a Northern Ireland would be treated as a single constituency, with voters choosing parties, although the DUP favours appending the names of politicians to party

The advantage of the UUI proposal is that legislation is already on the statute book so that an election could proceed with haste.

The advantage of the DUP proposal is that fringe parties such as the small loyalist groups would stand a better chance of getting a representative elected.

Neither the SDLP, Sinn Fein, nor the Dublin govern-ment want an election, but Mr Hume has signalled that nationalists could live with one, provided that it led swiftly and irrevocably into all-party negotiations.

all-Ireland referendum asking voters if they oppose violence and if they want all-party

Mr Hume describes his election idea as an "index sys-tem" but really it does not differ from Mr Paisley's plan. The reason why these two

men, diametrically opposed in their political objectives, can find common cause against Mr Trimble is that they both stand to gain.

When Northern Ireland is treated as a single constituency, as in the elections to the European parliament, Mr Paisley always tops the poll and Mr Hume comes a close second, squeezing the Ulster Unionists into third place. This is because both men attract an enormous personal

At Westminster elections the DUP vote can dip as low cent in district council elections, but soaring to 29 per cent at a European poll. By contrast the Ulster Unionists regularly attract more than 30 per cent at Westminster elections, and 29 per cent for district councils, but only 21 per

cent for Europe.

Should John Major press ahead with the election plan. it is therefore likely that Mr Paisley would emerge as the strongest unionist voice.

### **Most Catholics in north** reject united Ireland

NLY a minority of conducted simultaneously in process than the politicians. Northern Ireland Catholics support the goal the Irish Republic — came who declared the peace process. of a united freland and most back some kind of continuing link with Britain, according to a joint Guardian-Irish

Times poll.

Given four possible futures for Northern Ireland — part of the UK, part of a united Ire-land, linked to both, or an independent country — only 27 per cent chose a united Ire-land. As many as 42 per cent wanted Northern Ireland to have a constitutional link with both Britain and Ireland and another 18 per cent wanted to remain part of the

There is slightly more support for a united Ireland among voters in the Irish Republic where it is the preferred option with 30 per cent, but that comes only just ahead of a federal solution on 29 per cent. The Northern Irish Protestants are the only group who favour the union

Among British voters the preferred option is that Northern Ireland should become an independent country, chosen by 32 per cent. Only 17 per cent want it

the Irish Republic — came when people were asked how much the border between

Northern Ireland and the

Republic mattered to them.

The British tended to think that the border did not mat-ter. The Northern Ireland Protestants felt very strongly that it did, though only a quarter thought it was worth fighting for. The Catholic community

in Northern Ireland, how ever, in whose name the IRA waged war on Britain for 26 years, are mainly of the opin-ion that the border does not natter and is not worth arguing about

The answers give an insight into one of the paradoxes of Northern Ireland politics that most Catholics are not that bothered about the border. In polls where the choice is restricted to Britain or Ire land, they say they would pre-fer to be in Ireland. But as with Britain, by an over-whelmingly majority, with \$1 per cent wanting to remain part of the UK. eignty or federal status, support for a united Ireland falls away rapidly.

The poll may give a few clues to John Major and John

Kingdom.

But perhaps the most astonishing response in the poll— about the future of the peace

Unlike the many politicians who declared the peace pro-cess dead after the IRA's London bomb, most people in Ireland think it is just "stalled at present" and most Britons think it is "still continuing".

If the process has broken down, respondents were asked how they would appor-tion blame between the IRA, the British and Irish govern-ments, the Ulster Unionists and anyone else.

The Irish and the Catholics in Northern Ireland tended to blame the British government while the Northern Irish Protestants and the British tended to blame the IRA. But British voters still out a substantial 20 per cent share of the blame on the British government, 11 per cent on

the Irish government and 8 per cent on the Ulster Unionists. Northern Irish Catholics and voters in the Irish Republic put nearly a third of the blame on the IRA and the Irish put another 13 per cent

on the Ulster Unionists. Total decommissioning of all weapons is not seen as a realistic precondition in any country. The British and Northern Irish Protestants will be happy with gradual decommissioning as talks

### Who's for peace? The view from Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic

at suggestions that he offered

a 12-month deal in return for

concessions on the referen-

dum, all-party talks, and the

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ı	need suffrage ratherstate and widnest uithran to earth o	ound. P	TO-FTO	MARIE I		IDING	
	If the peace process has broken de apportion the blame between thes						
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	IRA	58	61	81	32	29	
	Uister Unionists	8	5	3	7	13	
ı	Anyone else	3	2	2	3	. 1	
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without conditions The Irish government by putting forward its own peace plan participation in all-party talks? IRA must resume its ceasefire 32 35 33 IRA should gradually decomm weapons as talks progress

RA must decommission all weapons before talks start NI

Gerry Adams knew the IRA were planning to end the ceasefire and said nothing about it and knew nothing about it

#### to remain part of the United | for the Anglo-Irish summit Freeman's remarks on floor of House on gagging orders which made Tory critic change mind 'only reflects existing state of law' Information campaigners back MP's bill

### Ministers deny concession to 'rebel'

Richard Norton-Taylor

■HE Government yester day denied it had made concessions to Rupert Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay and spy writer whose last-minute change of mind during Monday night's debate on the Scott report gave it a dramatic single-vote victory. Mr Allason said he was per-suaded to vote for the Govern-

ment after concessions by Roger Freeman, the Civil Service minister, on the law covering public interest immunity — so called gagging orders.

Mr Freeman defended the use of PII certificates in the Matrix Churchill arms-to-Iraq

case but said that in future "the presumption should be disclosure", rather than suppression of documents. Mr Allason seized on this at the end of Monday night's vote. But the Government insisted yesterday that Mr Freeman had done no more than reflect the existing state of reflect the existing state at given no guarantee it will ac- Commons on Monday night ministers knew from intelli-

ruling by the law lords in 1994, two years after the Matrix Churchill trial. In a case called Wiley, the

law lords rejected the claim made by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, in the Matrix Churchill case that ministers had a duty to claim PII on a wide range of official documents regardless of their contents. They said that ministers in future should give pri-ority to disclosure and look closely at the information contained in the documents.

Mr Freeman said no more in the Commons than that the Government would look again at PH law to see whether it should be made more liberal, but he gave no specific commitment. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said the Government would seek the views of MPs. A spokesman for Sir Nicholas said yester-day the Attorney General wanted to consult with law-yers and other interested parties. The Government has



Roger Freeman . . . would look again at PH law

recommendation that PII claims should never again be used in a criminal trial in the blanket way they were in the Matrix Churchill case.

Opposition MPs, mean-while, seized on a passage in tary end-use". Mr Freeman's speech in the



Rupert Allason . . . switched vote after minister's words

cept Sir Richard Scott's | which they said did not corre spond with the findings of the Scott inquiry. He told MPs: "Non-lethal equipment did not include dual-use equip-ment if intelligence was available that there would be mili-

The Scott report shows that

gence reports that Matrix Churchill machine tools were being used by Iraq to make arms, but agreed to let them go, partly to maintain the flow of information to MI6 from Paul Henderson, the director and chief defendant The report says that Wiliam Waldegrave, then a Foreign

Office minister, was warned in 1989 that Iraqi intended to use Matrix Churchill ma-chine tools for "armaments and munitions factories". Mr Waldegrave responded: "Screwdrivers are also required to make H bombs".

Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said yesterday: "Once again a Government spokes-man either misrepresented or ignored a crucial finding of Sir Richard Scott".

 Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, will be questioned about his evidence to the Scott inquiry today by the Commons public service committee.

#### Iraq machine tools warning in Matrix Churchill letter 'shows need to protect whistleblowers'

Richard Norton-Taylor ACRUCIAL warning by a Matrix Churchill em-

ployee that Saddam Hussein was using machine tools to make weapons was ignored for more than three years, highlighting the urgent need for a law to protect whistleblowers, supporters of the measure say today.

The letter, from an unidentified employee at the Coventry-based firm, was sent to Lord Howe, the then foreign secretary, in Janu-ary 1988. It said that the company was "working on a £30 million order for . . . lathes to be used for munitions production in Iraq" and that "these machines are going to be used in ma-

chine shell cases". The Scott report said that the letter provided "independent, usable, information" to stop export licences and that it "should have been recognised as which finally emerged be-

highly significant". It was | fore the Matrix Churchill sent by Lord Howe's advi-sers to the Ministry of Defence, the Department of MI6, but was never shown to ministers. Officials wrongly assumed

that the whistleblower had asked for the information to be kept confidential. If it had been heeded, "subsetaken a markedly different turn". says Public Concern at Work, a charity sponsoring the Public Interest Dis-closure Bill to be debated in the Commons on Friday.
Guy Dehn, the charity's

director, said yesterday that civil servants would have been more likely to have acted on the warning if the whistleblower had been protected from reprisals by management. Under the bill, whistleblowers would also be protected if they publicised their concerns when employers ignored them. The letter,

trial in 1992, was one of the key factors behind Michael Heseltine's reluctance to sign a Public Interest Immunity certificate, a so-called gagging order. Told about the letter by his officials, he noted that

knew" the company's machine tools were being used by Iraq to make arms.

The letter was one of many documents covered cates. Mr Heseltine, the then trade secretary, noted that "in the Matrix Churchill case, no rational per-son, who had looked at the files, could have said that the documents should not have ben disclosed".

The Public Disclosure Bill, which is also backed by the Freedom of Information Campaign and has cross-party support, has been tabled by the Labour MP for Islwyn, Don Touhig.

Richard Shepherd, page 9

Rogue MP trumpets cause across outback



Graeme Campbell covers a vast area to woo voters and annoy the Labour Party, reports

Christopher Zinn

HE dusty outback seat of Kalgoorlie is said to be the biggest constituency in the world. Ten times the size of Britain, it is a spitably epic arena for Australia's most outspoken olitician and bane of the that in one 262-day period last year be was at home Labour Party.

Campbell's constituency spreads from the rugged save a marriage. But, after 16 years, Mr Campbell could be on the Kimberleys across almost a third of the continent to the

expelled from the Labour Party after years of scath-

ing outbursts.
It probably did not help when he said the best thing the prime minister, Paul Keating, could do for Aus-

south. It is arid. sheep-farming land, but rich in gold and other minerals.

Saturday's federal election. funeral". But when the MP who who arrived in Australia at turned Kalgoorlie from a the age of 11 as a 210 mi-To represent it in far-off safe Liberal to a safe grant helped launch a new canberra requires stamina and sacrifice. Mr Campbell's wife Michelle said November he was finally tion, he finally lost

Labour's endorsement.
"A lot of people reckon
he's a bloody idiot, but nobody argues that his heart's always with Kalgoorlie. the prime minister, Paul Most think he's a pretty Keating, could do for Australia was to "have a state Saw, publican of the Picca-

noted for having a street full of brothels, has certainly taken Mr Campbell to its heart. Stella Strong, who runs the Red Hou bordello, wrote to the Kal-goorlie Miner newspaper: "He has always treated my staff and me as equals." But in the fight with the endorsed Labour candidate

dilly Hotel in Kalgoorlie MP, such support might not leader] with any enthusi-the gold-mining town, "It's very, very hard to asm. They are voting win as an independent but I think I can hold it. I wouldn't put it any higher than that," Mr Campbell against Keating." Mr Campbell is an out and-out populist. He boasts that he is Anglo-Celtic and

said last night. He is not putting his money on his former party's chances after 13 years in power, and the polls back him up.

The Libs will win. No

immigrants who, he believes, want to be part of a robustly Australian and not a "politically correct"

proud of it. He claims to have the support of many

He has great respect for his electorate. They "have a sense of independence, honesty and commonsense you don't find elsewhere in Australia," he says And, until Saturday at

least, they will be repre-sented by the sort of MP you don't find anywhere

### Vietnam's wildlife losing the peace Cuba defiant in face of

Rampant poaching and large-scale destruction of the rainforest to fuel the struggling economy is posing more of a threat to imperilled animals such as the langur monkey, right, than 50 years of warfare, writes **Tony Perry** 

worse. The Indochina tiger which once reamed the countryside is rarely seen. Elephants, bears, peacocks, the clouded leopard, deer, mon-keys and other wildlife are disappearing because of ram-pant peaching and large-scale Even the deadly cobra is in

At greatest risk are brightly coloured monkeys called langurs that exist in the wild only in Vietnam and now are on the verge of extinction.



threatened species.

"You have wildlife that somehow managed to survive 50 years of warfare but may not survive the next 15 to 20 years of economic growth," said Karen Killmar, associate curator of mammals at the San Diego Zoo.

"In many ways Vietnam was closed to outside ideas for many years and missed the entire environmental move-WWF official in Hanoi. In an attempt to prime its struggling economy, the com- in Portland, Oregon.

F HALF a century of war German zoos and the Amerimas bad for the wild animals of Vietnam. 20 years of peace are proving even with the Vietnamese to save population of 75 million grow-both live as pets and dead for live as pets ing annually by 2 per cent, Vietnam is one of the most densely populated and fastest growing countries in Asia. Up to half the forests were damaged or destroyed by the

war. The Vietnam News Agency estimates that with several hundred thousand acres being cleared annually they will disappear completely within decades.

"It's as if everything that is flat is being cultivated." said Dennis Pate. curator of the

"You end up with a series of steep hillsides that are avail-able for wildlife. They're like disconnected islands, and that's not a good way to man age habitat."
William Langbauer, direc-

tor of research at the Pitts-burgh Zoo, said: "If we don't do something quick a lot of indigenous species will go ex-tinct. Vietnam is ripe for enlightened conservation." Tilo Nadler, a German film-

maker and conservationist.
works with Vietnamese park
rangers seeking poschers and
timber thieves. On a single
night they found two lorries,
10 ox-drawn carts and 46 bicycles carrying wood cut in the

strictest laws in Asia to protect endangered species but their medicinal parts, flour-ishes openly in most cities. WWF is also training

national park guards to counter poachers and is urg-ing the Vietnamese to expand sanctuary areas.
In April the wildlife group

is co-sponsoring with a Viet-namese business organisation of Commerce a conference in Ho Chi Minh City to discuss ways in which economic de-velopment and animal sur-Metro Washington Park Zoo | vival can co-exist. - Los An-

# **US strong-arm tactics**

Mark Tran In New York

HE United States used all its diplomatic mus cle yesterday to push a statement through the United Nations Security Council deploring Cuba's shooting down of two civilian

The council also asked the International Givil Aviation Organisation, a UN agency, to

investigate the incident.

Despite China's request for a delay to give Cuba's foreign minister, Roberto Robainia González, a chance to address the council, the US insisted on immediate action. The result was a 16-hour session changes between the US ambassador, Madeleine Alweightler formal resolution. Although the US secured stantially. Instead of condemning Cubs, the council said it strongly deplored Cuba's action. A reference to Cuba as a threat to world order was deleted.

Cuba which says it shot down the two US civilian planes in defence of its airspace after issuing warnings, reacted with defiance.

"Cuba neither fears nor accepts threats." the foreign ministry said in a statement published on the front page of the Communist Party daily

Miami-based Brothers to the aircraft." bright, and her Chinese Rescus, a group of Cuban excounterpart, Qin Huasun.

The council adopted a presidential statement censuring Roques, who appeared to that an investigation should Jonathan Freedland, G2 front

Cuba, but shrank from a have infiltrated the group on also cover the provocation of weightler formal resolution. behalf of the Cuban govern, earlier flights by Brothers to the Rescue mant, said that Brothers to the Rescue into Cuba. The US prompt action, the final state the Rescue had planned administration has been critiment was toned down sub-

Mr Robaina was expected to provide evidence to the council last night that the two planes were intercepted inside Cuban airspace. Ms Al-bright was expected to bring charts and maps to argue that the planes were in international airspace.

When the statement was adopted, Ms Albright said. The Cuban crime has been really shown in the council. where we have deeply desaid. "After months of mov-plored the acts of the Cuban ing the wrong way — mwards a pilot who worked with the down two unarmed civilian

Mr Clinton's Republican rivals in the presidential cam-paign are jockeying for politi-

Republican front-runner, said: "After months of mov-Clinton has yet to understand that the only way to deal with

drug cartel contributions] or not, he's in the same boat".

Another solution which ap-

pears to be gathering support

s a *punto final* (full stop) law,

vaguely modelled on the Argentine law of the same name

gentine law of the same name that granted amnesty to mili-tary officers accused of

human rights abuses under the dictatorship. Senator Jaime Dussan, a

#### China pours scorn on the 'failure' **John Major**

Our Correspondent in Hong Kong

OHN MAJOR'S travails the Chinese Communist Party to ditch its predilection for rightwing Western politicians Mr Major, who is expected to meet the Chinese prime nunster. Li Peng, in Bangkok tomorrow, has been described Hong Kong as the failed leader of a failed party. .. revealed

himself lacking in the vision. experience and knowledge of a leader." an editorial in the newspaper Wen Wei Po says. "Only a Labour Party govern-ment can save Beltane." ment can save Britain. Sneering at the Conserva-tive's desire to learn from Asia's "tiger" economies, Wen Wei Po says Mr Major's

government is beset by rebellion, internal splits, the blows of repeated scandals and economic slump". Reijung has long held West-ern conservatives in high

regard, particularly Edward Heath and Richard Nixon. Relations cooled under angered China's then leader, the 19th century treaty that ceded Hong Kong to Britain. But Mr Major appears to have sunk the relationship to a new low with his continu-

ing support for the Hong

Kong governor, the former

Tory Party chairman Chris

### Tibetans die in desert of snow

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

HE worst show storms gering the lives of tens nonuals by devastating the herds of yak and sheep they depend upon for food, clothing and fuel.
The Yushu Autonomous

Prefecture in the Chinese province of Qinghai is at the centre of what aid workers warn could be a humanitar-ian catastrophe. The district is the site of the secret labora-tory that built China's first nuclear bomb and a labour camp archipelazo. Medecins sans Frontières

reports that temperatures in the area, high on the Tibetan plateau, have dropped as low as 47C, killing more than three-quarters of livestock. ited Yushu, an area of 104,000 square miles inhabited by 200,000 people, say villages are littered with frozen

"If the yaks die, the people Relations cooled under die too," said Serge Depotter, Margaret Thatcher, who an MSF field worker, speaking by telephone from the Deng Xiaoping, with com-ments about the sanctity of hour journey by jeep from the more accessible parts of the district. The area is too high for crops or trees so nomads trade cattle for the firewood

they need to survive. "They are getting very close to the end of their food who visited the area last week in 1979 in Qinghai.

enough food for a week.
Officials estimate that 25,000 people have lost all their cattle, and a further 55,000 have lost more than 80 per cent. At least 700,000 yaks and sheep are thought to have died China, with help from Can-

ada, provided emergency sup-plies at the start of the year but these are now exhausted. Some 16,000 people are suf-fering from frostbite and anness, a condition in which the cornea is damaged by glare.
"This is the first time we have had to deal with a white desert'. We are used to seeing

starvation in the deserts of Africa and the Sahal but this is a desert of snow," said the Farouk Kaddoumi, who MSF regional director in Hong Kong, Alain Guilloux. The district of Ganzi in the neighbouring Sichuan is also badly hit. The United Nations department of humanitarian affairs quoted official Chinese

reports of 48 confirmed dead Yushu in Qinghai is inhab-ited by ethnic Tibetans, who call the area Jyekundo and prize the medicinal proper-ties of the local caterpillar. The area forms part of greater Tibet, which is united by the Buddhist faith and loyalty to the Dalai Lama but was carved up under Chinese rule into separate administrative

regions. The veteran dissident Wei lingsheng spent much of the 15-year jail sentence imposed

#### News in brief

Hutus kill 46 refugees

Hutu rebels killed 46 people in refugee camps in two attacks in north-western Burundi, an army regional com-

mander said yesterday. Colonel Lucien Rufyiri said 30 people were killed and two soldiers wounded in attacks on Monday in Cibitoke prov-ince. Rebels killed 16 people in another raid in the province on Friday. — Reuter.

Dhaka crackdown Bangladeshi police arrested another two key opposition figures yesterday in what ap-pears to be a continuing crackdown on government op ponents. They were Tofayel Ahmed of the Awami League and Abdul Kader Mollah of the Jamaat e-Islami. — AP.

PLO minister ill

serves as the PLO's foreign minister, has been taken to hospital in Tunis with heart problems. - AP. 10 die in pile-up

At least 10 people died yester day when more than 120 lor-ries and cars crashed and burst into flames in thick fog on a motorway near the northern Belgian city of Ghent - AP.

Temporary support Managers of a struggling factory in the southern Russian city of Voronezh are unable to pay their workers in roubles — so have started paying them in bras instead. The mathem in bras instead. The matchine building plant proclaim his innocence and apparently traded some of its has rescharged a solution of the high command claims that the generals are almost

#### Pressure is growing for the president to go before the case against him is resolved, writes Phil Gunson in Bogotá

HAT did President | step aside for the good of the country.

Colombia know about | Constitutionally, the presi-

the drugs money that alleg-edly financed his 1994 When did he know it, and did he, as his former defence minister and campaign man-

ager claims, mount a "gigan-tic cover-up" when word began to leak ou!? These are some of the questions to be resolved by a parliamentary commission which reopens its hearings today into a case reminiscent

of the Watergate scandal which cost Richard Nixon the US presidency 20 years ago. Having declared in December that there was no case to answer, the commission was obliged to reconvene when Fernado Botero, the former defence ininister who is himself awaiting trial in con-nection with the scandal,

changed his testimony and directly implicated the A fortnight ago the govern-ment's independent prosecu-tor, Alfonso Valdivieso, presented the commission with allegations against Mr Samper based largely on Mr

noeuvres aimed at covering up the facts".

Those due to be questioned include not only the president, but his foreign, interior will have to be outside the up the facts".
Those due to be questioned and communications ministers. All can theoretically be

sent to jail.

Colombia considers Nixon-style

solution to Samper's Watergate

dent's fate is in the hands of the legislature, whose mem-Bers are held in low esteem by an apathetic and cynical

drag on for months and end in a second exoperation — unless, that is, moves afoot to president, Humberto de la The case seems likely to end in a

second exoneration unless moves to change the rules of the game succeed

change the rules of the game | Calle, would serve out his "If the impeachment pro-ceedings take another six Although this solution was initially popular, particularly with Conservative opposition months, this country is fin-ished," said the Liberal senaleaders, it has lost steam in

tor Luis Guillermo Giraldo, one of the members of the president's own party calling for his resignation. Retired General José Joaquin Matallana, a former chief of the joint staff, says:
"While Samper is president
the country will remain

ungovernable." Gen Matallana openly Botero's statements, including electoral fraud, misuse of favours a "technical coup" to put a military-civilian junta in power while fresh elections

constitution."

Although the armed forces have publicly maintained a products for a shipment of from the church and business evenly split over a proposal to community, among others.

Ironically, for a country whether he knew [about the that rewrote its constitution drug cartel contributions] or as recently as 1991, the coup proposal is not the only plan that is outside the legal

framework.
Last week the newspaper El
Espectador suggested a con-stitutional amendment to allow fresh elections. The plan has some support even the president has not ruled it out, though he continues to say his innocence must be es-tablished first.

Under the constitution, if

recent weeks.
Gen Matallana points out

Samper supporter who plans to present a full stop bill this week for public debate, says it would cover all those accused of crimes against the state, including drug traffick. ers, guerrillas and corrupt politicians.

Trials would continue but sentences would be negotiated, and the politicians who agreed to be covered by the law would be banned from holding public office.

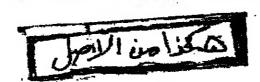
Others favour a full am-nesty in return for permanent withdrawal from public life, a solution some feel would allow Mr Samper a dignified way out of the crisis. It would be, in the words of

in the B

111144

one senator, "a Nixon solu-tion à la Colombiana". that Mr de le Calle "was elected on the same ticket and Leader comment, page 8

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Both sides in Chechenia are replenishing 'stocks' for swaps, writes Andrew Harding in Grozny

### Prisoners of war for sale

republic of Che-chenia. Chechen families are being asked to pay thousands of pounds in bribes to free rel-sitives from atives from a notorious archi-

On the other side, dozens of Russian mothers are ventur-ing into the mountains hoping to strike deals with Che-chen fighters holding their sons as Pows after 14 months

pelago of Russian "filtration"

of fighting.
"It's like the Middle Ages here — things have got worse and worse," said Hussein Khammidov, head of a voluntary service which helps Che-chens in their search for

relatives. Mr Khammidov, who set up Mr Khammidov, who set up his missing persons centre Chechen men who are areafter his two sons were killed rested, often on arbitrary

GRUESOME trade in the war, said the exchange in human lives is flourishing in Russia's breakaway following the breakdown of peace talks last autumn and the suspension of official prisher families are

There is now strong evidence that both sides are try-ing to replenish their "stocks", the one taking more Russian soldiers hostage, the other detaining young Chechen men who dare to run the gauntlet of Russian checkpoints outside Grozny.

The disappearance of an estimated 2,000 Chechen civilians has been condemned by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's mission in Chechenia Parallels have been drawn with the situation in Argentina in the

1970s. "There are dozens of fresh

'They are beaten, deprived of food and tortured, including mock executions'

grounds, and then disappear into the Russian camps," said an OSCE representative. Roman Wasilievski. buy their way out, but by all anecdotal evidence — and some cases directly known to us — they are beaten system-atically, deprived of food and tortured, including mock

Ramzan Musallev, a French journalist who witnessed last ek's brutal Russian assault on the town of Novogroz-nenski, said he saw three Chechens being viciously eaten by troops. Another

dug in a muddy field.
The journalist was lucky to survive his time in a Russian camp. On the way there, six men were shot and another two suffocated. "When we got there, they beat me uncon-scious—three times in all."

Pamilies hoping to buy free-dom for their Chechen rela-tives have to pay about 5 mil-

lion roubles (£1,000). But those who have the money "The Russians told me they have my brother," said a tear-ful Chechen woman, Madina

called Sergel Limonov, in the mountains. But then they told me that Limonov is a deserter, and that I must find a Russian officer instead. Now they tell me they no longer have my brother — that he has been sentenced to 15 years in prison." Russian parents looking for their soldier sons often

receive little better treatment "They tricked us — the scum," said Tamara Todeseichuk, who travelled thousands of miles from the Pacific coast to search for ber son Sergei, who was captured two months ago by Chechen

fighters. She found him "fat and healthy," living in a moun-tain village with his Chechen

but then they told me to find a the Russians agreed to a swap Russian prisoner of war to swap for him. I found one, 25 Chechens to exchange but 25 Chechens to exchange but they never turned up — for 'technical reasons', they

oner was exchanged for four Russians, but "the Chechen was in such a terrible state he

died within a week." Chechen fighters have generally won praise from Rus-sian parents for the way they look after their prisoners. But hospitality sometimes comes at a high price.

"They want \$40,000 from me," said one elderly Russian man. He said people in his home town were halping him to raise the money to buy back his officer son, but he was worried about heading into the mountains with so much cash, after hearing

### Underdog bares teeth to halt Bosnia's 'carve-up'

lulian Borger in Sarajevo

HE former Bosnian prime minister Haris Si-lajdzic accused Serb Croat and Muslim nationalist parties yesterday of splitting the country three ways, in defiance of the Dayton peace ac-cord, and laid out his plans for a new multi-ethnic political movement to fight for a unitary state in this year's

1 face of

tactics

rs Nixon-sty

r's Watergali

Mr Silajdzic, who resigned as bead of the government last month, said the new party, as yet unnamed, would be launched within the next

But in an interview yester day at his modest new office in a central Sarajevo tower block, he said he did not expect the elections, scheduled for September at the latest, to be free and fair.

He accused the governing Party of Democratic Action (SDA), the Muslim movement which expelled him earlier this month, of using communist-style tactics to limit ac cess to the media, and of coopting generals and religious ders into its executive.

"It increasingly looks like a bad copy of the old commu-nist system," he said in his most outspoken attack to date on his former party.

The Dayton accord, signed in December, envisages a unitary Bosnia consisting of a Muslim-Croat federation, and a Serb republic (Republika Srpska). But Mr Silajdzic argued that all three leading na-tionalist parties — the SDA, the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), and the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) - were working towards a three-way

partition of the country. He made his remarks against the backdrop of a continuing exodus of Serbs from the five Sarajevo suburbs due to be transferred to federation control, egged on by SDS lead-ership under Radovan Karad-zic. That exodus has been given impetus this week by a Nato offer to provide security trucks helping to remove

The whole aim of Karadzic is to partition Bosnia and, if they extract the Serbs from Sarajevo, he knows the Croats and the Bosnian Mus-

and this is the goal that the international community participates in because it is

He added that, while he was prime minister, some former SDA colleagues had shown "a lack of enthusiasm" for encouraging Serbs to stay on. "The Serb exodus spells the end of a moderate, multi-ethnic core around Sarajevo,"

all potential Silajdzic voters you see leaving." The 50-year-old former his-tory professor was pessimis-tic about the future of the Muslim-Croat federation, which he said had become little more than a front for the

said one diplomat. "Those are

Nearly two years after the federation was formed under pressure from the United States, there has been virtually no reintegration of Mus-lim and Croat populations. A pilot project agreed at Dayton to allow refugees to go home to four federation-held towns to restore their pre-war

ethnic mix has also ground to a halt in the face of resistance from local SDA and HDZ chieftains. "How come the two parties that have a majority in the parliament and can do any-thing politically on the

ground ... now have the prob-lem of implementing the fed-eration?" Mr Silajdzic asked. The future of the federation is generally viewed as

Dayton peace plan. If it falls spart, there will be scant chance of the federation and the Republika Srpska knit-ting together.

The consequence of failure, Mr Silajdzic said, would be a

rump Islamic state sandwiched between a greater Ser-bia and a greater Croatla. The Bosnian army fought for 14 months to prevent such a par-tition, but now, Mr Silajdzic willing to acquiesce.
"I think it's a power prob-lem," he said. "I'he SDA

thinks] it's better to have more power in a smaller space than less power on a wider space." The next steps, Mr Silajdzic

essential to the survival of the | predicted, would be the radicalisation of the Muslim ministate, and a new war within five years, in which the Croats and the Serbs would seek to partition the Muslim

> afraid we're looking at more trouble in the Balkans for at least a decade to come. Political observers here find it impossible to predict Mr Silajdzic's electoral

He said: "In that case I'm

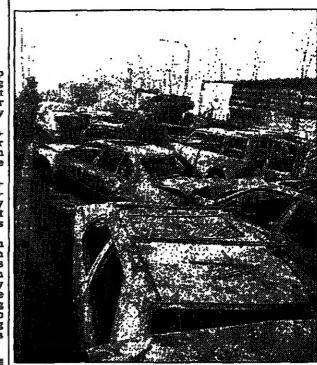
race as the underdog. The nationwide television networks are controlled by the nationalist parties, and even in federation territory the government is blocking the creation of an indepen

Mr Silajdzic's party organisation stretches to three campaign workers in a pair of rooms financed, he insists out of his own pocket. He admits he has so far not raised any campaign funds, and is hoping for donations from businessmen among the Bosnian diaspora in Scandinavia and Germany.

Against these daunting odds, Mr Silajdzic is gambling on what he terms the "demo-cratic dissident" strand in Bosnian history. Asked to provide evidence that the vived 43 months of war, he estured at his spartan office

and laughed.
"You're looking at it," he

#### **News** in brief 14 die in pile-up on **Belgian motorway**



AT LEAST 14 people were killed and dozens injured after 120 vehicles ploughed into each other in thick fog on a Belgian motor way yesterday. Police said at least one French and one Dutch national died in the mile-long pileup on the E17 motorway, which links Antwerp in the north to the French city of Lille in the south. They believed all survivors had been freed from their vehicles, but said the death toll could rise if more bodies are found in the burntout wreckage. The accident happened yesterday morning close to the northwestern town of Deinze. The police said motorists had been surprised by a sudden thick fog. "We drove into a wall of fog," said an Englishman living in Belgium. Marc Schoonackers, police commander of the nearby town of Anzegem, who saw the start of the accident, said there was a series of small explosions and then fire spread quickly through the cars. A petrol tanker loaded with 5,000 gallons of petrol was involved but did not catch fire. — Reuter, Deinze

#### SA welcomes Cuban doctors

SOUTH AFRICA'S minister of health marked the arrival of 96 doctors from Cuba yesterday by railing at Britain for pinching her country's trained medical personnel. "We are not pleased with what Britain is doing here and we are having discussio with them," said Dr Nkosazana Zuma. "Obviously they do not feel compassionate towards us if they are willing to take the few doctors that we have."

Supporters of the ruling African National Congress chanted anti-American slogans in welcome to the Cubans, who are on three-year contracts to fill some of the country's 2,000 vacant health posts. The decision to hire Cubans drew some criticism from the South African medical profession when it was an-nounced last year, but a subsequent fact-finding team returned from a visit to the island startled by the high standards of health care under Fidel Castro.

"They are not totally familiar with all the drugs or techniques we use, but all the pegs are there to hang our methods on to," Professor David Morrell said yesterday, speaking for the medical selection committee which oversaw the hiring of the Cubans. In another gesture of solidarity with Cuba yesterday, South Africa's North West regional government amounced it was twin-ning itself with the province of Santiago de Cuba. — David Beres-ford, Johannesburg.

#### France shuns Rwanda study

FRANCE was accused vesterday of pulling out of an international study of the Rwandan genocide because the yet-to-be published

report reflects hadly on its foreign policy.

The report, written by a Danish team and funded by international agencies, including the Red Cross and the World Bank, criticises France's "contradictory" attitude in backing the Hutu-dominated government and obstructing the work of a United

Nations peace force despatched during the 1994 crisis. But the leaked report, which is due to be published on March 12, also lambasts the broader international community for encouraging the genocide by vacillating and triggering an exodus of

3 million people.

It says relief efforts were botched and governments retrained from taking political action which could have halted the genocide of up to 1 million Hutus and Tutsis

Henri Leclerc, the barrister for the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme — a French human rights group — said yesterday: "I am not surprised to bear that France withdrew funding for the study. That is in keeping with its contradictory policy on the region."

Mr Leclerc's organisation is pressing for legal action against alleged perpetrators of the genocide who are hiding in France. He said: "France has still not ratified the international treaty to create a war crimes tribunal for Rwanda." The Danish report praises donors and aid agencies for an

"impressive and, on the whole, effective relief operation" but says that poor co-ordination, rivalries and waste caused many need-less deaths. Clear warning signs were "ignored, discounted or misinterpreted", the report says, encouraging those behind the genocide by signalling an unwillingness to intervene. — Alex

#### Reuter in The Hague

yer, Eric Ostberg, told the war crimes tribunal: "The shelling of Zagreb was not a yer. Eric Ostberg, told the war crimes tribunal: "The shelling of Zagreb was not a reprisal. It was a terror retaliation and it was unlawful."

designed to break up into a number of explosive parts which scatter over a large which scatter over a large and witnesses and victims asked to testify against him.

maker in Spain, propping up Felipe González's ailing

Socialist government while extracting concessions for his

independent-minded region.

The increasing likelihood

of the conservative opposition, the Popular Party, win-ning Sunday's general elec-tion is making him anxious.

desperate as he is to avoid any weakening of Barcelona's

July that he Mr Martic had given orders to fit rockets with cluster bomb warheads, designed to break up into a

A conservative electoral victory will end the president's reign

OR the past three years

Catalonia's president.

Jordi Pujol, has revelled in the role of political kings present the role of political kings are which has a support in the region by up to a third, returning as many as 12 MPs to Madrid.

"When the right is strong which has a support in the region by up to a third, returning as many as 12 MPs to Madrid.

"When the right is strong which has a support in the region by up to a third, returning as many as 12 MPs to Madrid.

acy which has always

haunted the Catalans.

The PP leader, José Maria
Aznar, would be less tolerant
of nationalist demands than
Mr Gonzalez, despite his ac-

ceptance of the principle of

devolution. Some Catalans feel that de-

volution has already gone far enough in their region and Mr Pujol has started to lose

votes to the PP. There are pre-

as national kingmaker, writes Adela Gooch in Barcelona

Survivors are expected to tribunal at the start of three testify against Mr Martic, days of hearings, said: "Zadays of hearings, said: "Za-greb was lucky. I am surprised that many, many more

in Spain, the rich Catalan bourgeoisie supports it. When

it is weak, they lend their votes to the nationalists,"

Luis Foix, deputy editor of the Catalan daily La Vanguar-

dia, explained.
"They backed Pujol when

he was anti-Socialist and

have now turned against him

Some of the non-Catalan

"immigrants" who work in

for supporting Gonzalez."

#### Reuter in Belarade

THE Yugoslav govern-ment lifted sanctions against Bosnia's separatist Serbs yesterday, the official news agency Tanjug

pected to have little imme-diate impact but will

'president", Radovan Karadzic, and his parliamen-tary "Speaker", Moncilo

Krajisnik. The Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, certi-fied on Monday that the Bosnian Serbs had withdrawn from zones of sepa-ration along a new interethnic boundary, thereby fulfilling a requirement for suspending UN sanctions. The zones were set out in

UN sanctions against the two republics which make up Yugoslavia's, Serbia and ntenegro, have already

been suspended.
Belgrade imposed mili tary, economic and political sanctions against the Bosnian Serb leadership or August 4 1994.

The action was taken after the separatist leaders repeatedly rejected peace plans and snubbed their former champion, the Ser-bian president Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr Aznar is determined to bring the devolution process

to a close, and in particular as part of his deficit-cutting

plans, to make the regions more responsible for their

Catalans consider their

hich pulls the rest of Spain,

egion the economic engine

and feel they do not get a fair reward for their hard work.

They want to raise and spend

The other sore subject is

anguage. Mr Aznar is less olerant of Mr Pujol's evan-

gelical promotion of Catalan.

more of their own taxes.

own spending.

#### Libya 'building gas factory'

LIBYA is building an enormous underground poison-gas factory, German newspapers said yesterday. A German businessman who allegedly supplied equipment for the plant is under arrest, one

Die Welt said American and German intelligence service believed the plant at Tarhunah, 40 miles south-east of Tripoli, would be able to start producing chemical and biological weapons

in two years at the earliest.

The CIA had expected production to start last spring, but Libya has had trouble obtaining from abroad the equipment needed to complete the factory, Die Welt said.

Complete the factory, the Weit said.

Western intelligence has known about the plant since 1992 and Germany's main spy agency has been able to obtain copies of the blueprints, Die Welt said. Its design is based on a factory built by Libya in Rabta with the help of German companies in the 1980s, Die Welt reported. Libya says fire destroyed the Rabta plant in 1990. Western Intelligence believes that tons of chemical weapons studyed at Parks and the storage of the results in Tarkshare. produced at Rabta are to be stored at the new site in Tarhuna

Die Welt reported.

Libya has also bought North Korean Scud rockets which could be used to deliver chemical weapons, the newspaper said.

According to Die Welt, no German companies are suspected of helping Libya build the new poison gas factory. But another newspaper, the Berliner Zeitung, said that a Stuttgart businessman had been arrested for allegedly delivering what the paper called "gas-cleansing" equipment for the Libyan plant. — AP, Bonn.

#### "What have the Socialists | problems as Mr González. He | autonomous areas as part of done?" asked one from the too has become an establish | the transition to democracy the transition to democracy after Franco's death, Catalo nia and the Basque country receiving privileged status.

Hamburg tops wealth index THE Hamburg, Brussels and Paris regions are the richest in the European Union, but on its southern border Portuguese, Spanisi and Greek regions trail badly.

A report by the EU's statistics office Eurostat puts Hamburg at he top of the league for gross domestic product per person with an index of 190, almost twice the EU average (100). Brussels is second with 182 and Paris-Ile de France, which

embraces the French capital and its vast suburbs, comes third on

The table, which is based on 1983 figures, puts Portugal's Alentajo and the Azores way behind the rest, with an index of only

No region in Greece, Portugal or Spain reached the EU average although Spain's Balearics and Madrid came close with 99 and 97 More surprisingly, with the exception of Stockholm, all regions

in Sweden were below the EU average, - Reuter, Brussels.

### lims will not be able to go hack to the Republika Stresks Moving day . . . A young boy waits outside his home in Hijas, a suburb of Sarajevo, as his parents prepare to join the Serb exodus Kraiina Serb charged with attack on Zagreb | Belgrade lifts sanctions against separatist rebels

HE Krajina Serb leader Milan Martic, charged with ordering a cluster bomb attack on the Croatian capital Zagreb last year in which at least seven civilians died, was accused yesterday of using

A Swedish prosecution law-

who is charged with ordering the Zagreb attacks of May 1995 after a Croatian offensive against the breakaway Kra-

The United Nations tribu-nal said in its indictment last

people didn't die. They [the rockets] were sent targeting the centre of the city and they hit the centre of the city . The damage was less than anyone could imagine."
Although Mr Martic is still at large the chief prosecutor, Richard Goldstone, has

### reported. The suspension is ex-

clearly boost morale among the moderate Bosnian Serb leaders who are now at odds with hardliners loyal to the increasingly isolated

Mancha area of central Spain. "I'm tired of paying taxes which go to line Socialist hon-

which go to the Socialist non-chos' pockets, I'm sick of our companies being sold off to foreigners, and I'm sick of Europe and the agricultural policy which has meant we had to uproot our vines, stop fishing and allow Morrograp

fishing and allow Moroccan produce into our markets."

enterprising are leaving the

Socialists," said a Barcelona lawyer and former indepen-

dent member of Mr Pujol's

regional government. "In Cat-

donia that is happening to

"Elsewhere the young and

last November's peace ac-cords drafted in Dayton,

## Return to Madrid's supremacy haunts Catalans

too has become an establish-ment figure with few new ideas and several corruption scandals under his belt. His Convergencia i Unió coalition could be one of the main casualties of the election, drop-ping from 17 seats in the Ma-drid parliament to 13 or 14. After 15 years in power however, Mr Pujol has suc ceeded in giving Catalans : deep sense of nationhood

They expect special treatment from Madrid and could cause rouble if they do not get it. "History shows you can govern Spain with Catalonia or against it but you cannot

Pujol."
The Catalan president suffers from many of the same

### Spain was divided into 17

ignore it," one Catalan

influence in Madrid.
If the polls are right, the PP

### The Guardian

Wednesday February 28 1996 Edition Number 46,487 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER Fax No. 0171-837 4530 E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

### Blair: tough on pollution

But will he be tough on the causes of pollution?

mark a watershed in Labour's approach to this vitally important subject which has often seemed of only peripheral the seemed of the seemed o interest. Cynics can easily say that Mr is the first time he has spoken at length on the subject, but that's not the point. The speech was clearly the result of a lot of consultation with specialists be-fore being welded by the leader into a central part of the party's philosophy. It has suddenly become part of Labour's new driving force of mutual responsibility or stakeholding in which a political nirvana comes out of a balance between opposing interests, consumers as well as producers, and the environment as well as economic growth.

There is plenty in yesterday's speech to satisfy all but the most avant-garde of environmentalists. Apart from the headline-grabbing prediction of 50,000 new jobs arising from a nationwide programme of energy efficiency, there is a commitment to reduce CO emissions by an ambitious 20 per cent by 2010; reform of the CAP; a parliamentary environmental audit committee; publication of new green indicators to monitor the country's well-being; proposals to encourage industry to pitch for more of the \$250 billion-a-year environmental technology market - not to mention that political will-o-the-wisp, a "proper integrated transport system". And this is surely the first time a Labour leader has ever showed concern for the plight of the lapwing in a major policy statement. Mr Blair is almost too clever by half in describing a continuity in Labour's concern for the environment from Keir Hardie's first manifesto (which included the reforestation of Lancashire as one of its ten proposals), through the pipe-smoking Clement Attlee's environmental concern for water

IF TONY BLAIR means what he says | quality and access to the countryside. about the environment then his speech to his own restatement of Clause 4 yesterday at the Royal Society will which inserts concern for a healthy

some of them — like stakeholding — Blair's words sound fresh because this have only been in Labour's vocabulary a matter of weeks. Political parties are notorious for ditching uncomfortably ambitious manifestoes when they col-lide with the realities of office. It is easy for Mr Blair to quote the best practice of local authorities as an example of what could be achieved by others. Yes, to be sure, if every local authority did pioneering work like Cardiff's recycling schemes or Sheffield's generation of energy from the city's waste, Britain would be a much more environmentally friendly place to be. But the job of persuading all the other less enlight-ened councils to do something similar will be long and hard and will require sustained political energy.

What might give Blair's vision a

longevity that some of his predecessors' efforts lacked (like Harold Wilson's opportunistic espousal of new technology) is that it is driven by a moral as well as an economic imperative. He sees the environment as a "fundamental building block" of a stable community which government has a moral duty to pursue. People's right to environmental improvement is part of the social justice which a stakeholding economy must pursue even if (as he admits) there is no chance of a government satisfying all the aspirations of the environmental lobby. No one knows if a newly elected Tony Blair would carry out such ambitious plans as passionately as he delivers his speeches. But he certainly gives the impression that he means business. The most useful thing to do would be to put his speech in a safe place for five years marked: "To be checked against

#### Time to stand up to Mr Howard

The Prisons Ombudsman must confront the Home Secretary

resign — reports which he has denied. No one should need reminding in the wake of Scott of the crucial importance of establishing clear lines of accountability - between civil servants and ministers, ministers and Parliament and, in those services with ombudsmen. between the ombudsman, ministers and civil servants. Whitehall is up to its old tricks: doing everything in its powers to restrict the remit of independent monitors. The prison service speaks about the need to clarify Sir Peter's role: "There appears to have been some misinterpretation of the role of Sir Peter. The ombudsman's remit is to investigate complaints by prisoners about the prison service as an agency, not the decisions of individual ministers. There have been a few cases when this remit has not been adhered to." If Sir Peter is not threatening to resign after that statement, it is time he was,

There are two reasons why Sir Peter must insist on reviewing decisions by ministers as well as civil servants. First because no minister in the history of the Home Office has done more to muddy the line between policy and operations than Michael Howard. When it has suited him - and according to the last Director General, Derek Lewis,

THE Prisons Ombudsman meets the intervened in the most minute details, Home Secretary today. They are in demanding 1,000 documents from the serious disagreement over their respec- Director in four months on different live powers. There have even been imaners and yet visiting only six pris reports of the Ombudsman, Vice Admi- ons over 13 months. Sir Peter's remit ral Sir Peter Woodhead, threatening to was quite specific, as the Home Office note on his appointment made clear: the right to look at the merits of individual decisions as well as the procedures with a guarantee there would be "unfettered access to prison service documents". But even if Howard had not interfered in operations, there would still be a need to look at ministerial decisions: taking up individual grievances can inevitably end up challenging policy decisions. Yesterday's new health guidelines on longstay care rose directly from the Health Ombudsman's angry reports about seriously disabled patients being wrongly turfed out of hospital beds. William Reid rightly refused to shrink from the implications of his reports on individual patients - Sir Peter must follow suit.

Sir Peter is on probation. He knows he was a poor second choice - the original shortlist of three distinguished penologists being rejected by the Home Secretary for being too liberal. Instead he chose Sir Peter, a man with no penal background. Created in 1994, the post was proposed by Woolf after the 1990 prison riots. Its remit was clear: preempting further riots by ensuring justice does not stop at the prison gate. inevitably, it must mean confronting the Home Secretary - particularly one this was on a daily basis - he has who pays justice such scant regard.

#### Colombia and the politics of evil

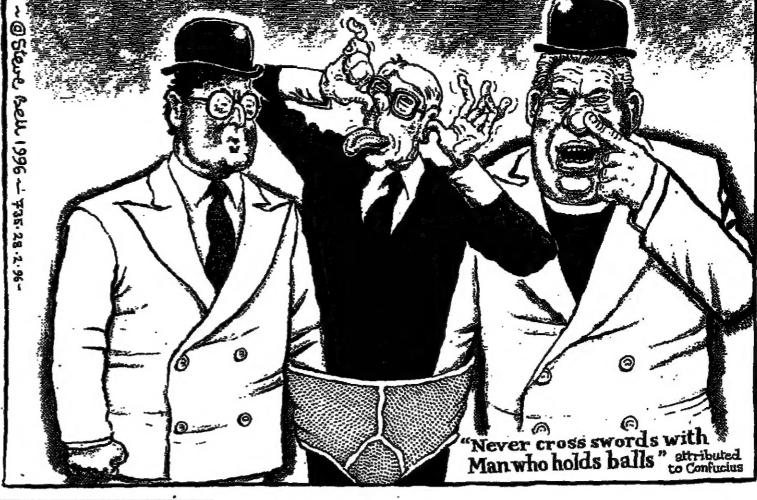
The blame for narcotic-related corruption must be shared

in Colombia for years, but a critical bia's power-sharing elite under which a mass of public protest has led to a challenge which now threatens the President himself. It is no secret that drug traffickers have manipulated a whole series of presidential campaigns over many years. Candidates have accepted the loan of planes and outright gifts of cash with little attempt at concealment. Politicians brazenly claimed to be unaware of their benefactor's drug connection. When accusations first surfaced that Ernesto Samper's presidential campaign in 1994 had taken millions of dollars from the Cali cartel. there was a general shrugging of shoulders.

Today, as a parliamentary commission reopens hearings into Colombia's 'Sampergate", the atmosphere is very different. A determined prosecutor, Alfonso Valdivieso, is backed by an in- up their act" but the responsibility creasingly angry public. The case has must be shared.

NARCO-POLITICS have been tolerated | opened a crack in the unity of Colomclimate of political repression and institutionalised crime has flourished for nearly three decades. Human rights organisations have reported appalling levels of violence. Thousands have been killed by police and paramilitary forces, or by ranchers and drug dealers, including 1,500 members of the leftwing Patriotic Union opposition - often falsely accused of terrorism against the state. All this was done in the name of "stability" too often applauded from the

north. For years it has suited the purposes of US hemispheric policy to condone the savagery of successive regimes. And it does not take much effort to guess where the biggest market can be found for Colombian cocaine. It is easy to urge the Colombians now to "clean



#### Letters to the Editor

### Scott, not quite forgotten A defence of Peter Mandelson (and a rather larger critique)

ters have sought to ex-tricate themselves rage of propaganda emanat-

They and all MPs—
Labour, Conservative (including that self-proclaimed defender of the public's right to know, Rupert Allason), Liberals and others—have a chance to put this into practice on Friday by supporting the private member's Public Interest Disclosure Bill which seeks its second reading. Few, if any, of the events leading to Scott would have taken place

and the Conservatives have managed to turn the judiciary into a political tool, as well as the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces beyond political control. I am that self-proclaimed defender of the public's right to know, Rupert Allason), Liberals and others—have a the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces beyond political control. I am that self-proclaimed defender of the public's right to know, Rupert Allason), Liberals and others—have a chance to put this into a political tool, as well as the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces are that Sir Thomas appreciates what happens to the "letter" he is so keen to defend once that final hurdle is beyond political control. I am the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces are the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces are the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces are the Civil Service? This would leave only the armed forces are the Civil Service? The control of the Civil Service? The control of the Civil Service? The control of the Civil Service? The would leave only the armed forces are the Civil Service? The control of the Civil Service? The contr Scott would have taken place had this measure been law. It will be interesting to see if the Government supports the bill on Friday. If not, ministers who pledged more open gov-ernment and greater information on Monday night will be exposed as hypocrites. Again. Denis MacShane MP.

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. amend questions of pro-cedure to say that ministers may knowingly mislead Par-liament, provided that they do so without duplicitous intent? He should remember that, whichever way he takes this decision, he may have to minimal presence on the answer for it in or well as in office.

Lord Russell Liberal Democrat spokesman. House of Lords. London SW1A OAA

SIR THOMAS Bingham in-tervened at a politically sensitive moment leading up to a Common vote. It raises tions could point to even Switzerland.

The long view

ASKED if they would pay an extra \$5 a year on their television licence so the

BBC could buy more sporting

events. 62 per cent of respon denis said they would not (Thumbs down for pay TV, February 22). I wonder if

they stopped to consider the alternatives.

BSkyB will charge sub-scribers an additional tenner

fight. The promoter says the true price should be £20 or

more. Does anyone seriously believe Sky's claim that this

is "just an experiment"? "We have no other plans for pay-

per-view," says Sky's deputy managing director. He forgot to add: "for the time being." Sky's own teletext an-

nouncement calls it "a daz-aling introduction to pay-per-

view for Sky Sports viewers". When a perma-nently outbid BBC is eventu-ally reduced to showing hop-

scotch and tiddly-winks, the prospect of paying perhaps 2500 or more each year to watch a decent portfolio of

sport on satellite is even more dazzling.

A fiver on the licence fee

looks like the bargain of the

millennium.

(Prof) Ted Wragg.

Sadler's well

MAY I correct the impres-sion that Sadler's Wells

may have to forgo a £30 mil-

lion Millennium grant (Matching funds dearth may leave embarrasement of lot-

tery riches, February 26). In fact we are currently drawing

down £4 million of the grant

to complete our designs. We

are confident that construc-tion work will start this sum-

mer and that, before comple-

tion, we will have raised all

the necessary partnership

funding.

Chief Executive.

Rosebery Avenue, London ECIR 4TN.

Sadjer's Wells Theatre.

14 Doriam Close, Exeter EX4 4RS.

watch the Tyson-Bruno

OVERNMENT ministers have sought to exist a continuation of the barfrom Scott by claiming they are prepared to open up information (Tories hang on by one vote, February 27).

They and all MPs—
and the Conservatives have

Southport, Merseyside PRS 6JQ.

WAS amazed to hear ian Lang accuse the last Labour Lang accuse the last Labour government of supplying arms to Argentina, and say that these arms were subsequently used against British troops. Before 1979, Argentina was a friendly country and there was no arms embargo against it. After the Tories came to power in 1979, they indicated clearly that they did not consider Argentina as a threat, even to the extent of withdrawing HMS Endurance withdrawing HMS Endurance from and maintaining only a Paikland Islands

That the Argenthnians responded as they did to this open invitation can be laid at the door of Mrs Thatcher's government. We are not told f there was any arms trade

London SE12 9LU.

ET'S have an end to all this confusion surrounding the Scott report. On News-night on Monday night, Ian Lang MP, made everything clear: there is such a thing as a "wrong fact". We demand the setting up of a committee to sort all facts into their proper category. Paul Brightwell. Naomi Landall.

PAUL Foot (February 26) should also be brought to task for perpetuating the myth that Lord Armstrong was author of the "subtle" expression "being economical with the truth". No doubt the noble civil servant was a master of the practice, but he lifted the phrase — without attribution, of course — from the 1899 classic by Edith Som-erville and Martin Ross, Some Experiences of An Irish RM: "... Flurry was not, to put it mildly, shrinking from that economy of truth that the sit-

uation required".

I accept that Lord Armead as to the authorship of this famous euphemism; he was just being economical with his sources PBW Rayment. Deputy Director, UN

Reconomic Commission

YOU

FALSTAFF!

CLAIRE Armitstead (Provo-cations, February 26) has it in her power to banish "luvvies" from your arts pages. Just refrain from publishing half-baked pontification and inane narciasism just because it is uttered by an actor. Fewer hespians would make fools of themselves and the luvvy stereotype would disappear. John Spencer. 38 Earlsfield Road.

Landon SW18 3DN.

The luvvies are losing it use of the word "philistine" to disparage all outsiders who disparage with them? Dermott Killip. 13 Packington Hill.

> A N advertisement for a salesperson in your Media columns last week (February 19) ended: "This is a sales job. no luvvies please." Who placed the ad? None other than The Charles Morgan.

Will Claire Armitstead also be banning luvvies 7 Dorset Road Bournemouth BH4 9LB.

### Taking a gamble on two teddies

HE Gaming Board of Great enjoy having to pay for the Britain and Crown Prose defence in a case which is cution Service are petitioning the House of Lords to try to prevent people converting a prize of two small teddy bears

They were refused permission to appeal to the Lords when they lost in the Appeal Court. But the Board and the CPS see preventing convert-ibility of two teddies for one as a matter of great public

importance.
They are prepared to spend £50,000 to £100,000 to establish the law - even though it is already perfectly clear, thanks to a judgment by Lord Justice Kennedy, that "trad-ing up" is lawful under the Gaming Act.

BACTA, the trade association of the coin-operatedamusements industry, will We may edit letters; shorter fight this all the way on behalf of the member being per- We regret we cannot secuted by CPS. But we don't | acknowledge those not used.

nonsense. The Gaming Board believes that allowing trading up will encourage gaming. Have they not heard of the National Lottery? It pays out millions and spends millions on promoting it. But that is the Government stimulating gambling ... and that doesn't count. This is the week the Government takes another step towards deregu-lating the Gaming Act. Their Lordships should throw this petition out. Warren Newman Chief Executive, BACTA. 6 All Saint's Street.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone numb ones are more likely to appear

Peter Mandelson for not readPeter ing a library shelf full of dead political philosophers (Bubble in' squeak, February 27), but has clearly himself not even read the full title of Peter's book. The Blair Revolution — Can New Labour Deliver! is not a dry political tract. It is a realistic and practical hundrealistic and practical hand-book for New Labour in gov-ernment and for those keen to help get them there. It is about democratic socialism in the 1990s, not the 1960s that Mr Hattersley seems increas-ingly to hold as a Golden Age. Roy is right to think that the election will not be won

by advertising copywriters, though I suspect their contri-bution will be a help to the campaign, unlike that of bit-ter political essayists. Colin Byrne. Coombe Farm Cottage,

Alldens Lane, Godalming, Surrey. THE New Labour agends proposed by Peter Mandel-son and Roger Liddle is one that many of us who are active workers for the party will feel unable to promote. Mandelson and Liddle ad-

vocate a dynamic market economy, competitive marstrong did not designedly mis- kets, regulation not social is pushing Labour to ownership of public utilities, no overall planning of the economy, and high reward for top-salaried management. These add up to a Tory economic agenda, which has meant unemployment, growing inequality and a run down of our welfare services. When Labour ditched its proit deprived itself of a clear socialist economic alternative. Now it refuses to call for the public utilities, including our railway system, to be brought back into social ownership. Is not public ownership, on behalf of the whole community, real stake-

> Ron Huzzard 37 Hollingworth Road, Petts Wood, Ornington, Kent BR6 1AQ.

THERE is much in the first extract from the book with which I agree, which is hardly surprising, since Roger Liddle and I were in agreement about two-thirds of the time when he was a fellow member of the Liberal Demo-

crats' policy comittee.
The problem is the missing link: the traditional Social Democrat preoccupation with economic and social rights without linking their achievement to the redistribution of political power. The Mandel | London SW18.

fails to incorporate a dis-persal of political power through a federal-type writ-ten constitution ensuring citizens' empowerment. Sarah Ludford. 70 St Peter's Street.

ALACK of historical aware-ness is a hallmark of New Labour, but I was astounded that Peter Mandelson should advocate marriage loans, a policy usually associated with the Third Reich. Of course, Hitler was not alone in bring-ing in marriage loans; that great democrat and libertarian Marshall Petain launched a similar scheme in 1940. One wonders if Mandelson will now consider emulating Mus-solini and place a 25 per cent surcharge on income tax for unmarried men between 35 and 50. This adoption of fascist policies on the family is the clearest indication so far of the way the Blairite clique

(Dr) Tobias Abse. Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, London SE14 6NW.

MAYBE the elderly blue-rinse spinsters of Tun-bridge Wells will be attracted by Peter Mandelson's future for young people. Young people themselves will not be fooled, and anyone who has any real affection for or meet-ing of minds with young people will be appalled. His vision of schools as boot

camps, with teachers keeping disruptive and vandalistic youth off the streets with evening and Saturday night detentions, shows what an unin-spiring low-life view he has of the world and of the place of education in that world. And does he really imagine that a lifetime of lack of love or mutual respect within the fam-ily, and lack of hope for a gen-uinely fulfilling future, can be substituted for by an amateur weekly counselling session with a slightly older ex-pupil who has "made it"? Take a few Saturday night detentions. Mr Mandelson,

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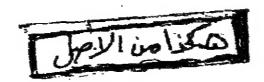
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and look beyond the workhouse for your inspiration. 9 Rosehill Road

#### A Country Diary

CHILTERNS: It must be 10 | The mill has long since been years since I last failed to find a snowdrop open on Candle-mas Day. February 2. They aren't truly wild here, and their usual blooming at this Catholic festival (the Feast of the Purification of the Victoria) the Purification of the Virgin) is a hint that they may well have been introduced to Britain by monastic orders in the Middle Ages, as a floral symbol of purity. Yet even where they are obviously naturalised, they behave uncannity like native bulbous species. They escape into ancient woods and old grassland. They edge into damp folds in the land, so that the most subtle contours of low ground seem to be marked out with white tracery. And now they have finally bloomed, two or three weeks late, their sheer persistence is inescapable. Some of our best local colonies have been known for centuries, at Mis-senden Abbey and Lee church, for example. Another dogged group was first recorded in 1849, "in meadows at Bourne End Mill."

replaced by a motel, but the snowdrops continue to appear. like a layer of frost, amongst the tangled grass round its edges. But our best colonies are around the village of Drayton Beauchamp, where they jostle along the village banks and carpet the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin. It is an apt site. Between 1860 and 1883 the incumbent was Henry Harpur Crewe, a distinguished plantsman with a penchant for snowdrops. Single and double varieties crowd around the ivy-wreathed Victorian cross that marks his grave. But there is no trace of the green-tinged variety that was named after him, or of the pink snowdrop which some parishioners swear they have seen in the village and which is almost certainly a myth. But then Drayton is the place where, in 1933, I heard a local explain the churchyard's abundant wild garlic by saying: "It does help to keep the Devil out." RICHARD MABEY



#### Matthew Norman

ROM Cardiff comes a fax that renders me speechless with excitement. Boris the Jackal Johnson, the Telegraph en Johnson, the Telegraph en-forcer, has been selected, it confirms, as Tory candidate for Clwyd South. God be praised, and who cares if the attached CV is a shade selective, concentrating on education and career at the expense of hobbies (MCing talent night down the Blind talent night down the Blind Beggar, for the record, and amateur dentistry)? Mean-while, although Labour's Martyn Jones has a major-ity of 5,000, Tory chairman lan Reynolds OBE is opti-mistic. "We are thrilled to have such an eminent journalist as our candidate." says Mr Reynolds OBE. "Now we know we will win, provided we put up a really good fight . . "The Jackal was out when I called to congratulate him, but the man who answered the phone was bullish. "A really good

fight, don't you worry about that . . . " LEASE God the Jackal is not the mystery journalist de-nounced in the Commons last week by Peter Bottomley, the well-meaning but obtuse MP for Eltham. Who can be sure, though, while Bolmondely stays silent and the guilty man skulks behind his cloak of anonymity? Yesterday, the finger of Lord Deedes and the Mirror's Harry Harris. Those two were swiftly cleared. For for the rest of us, how-

ever, the torture goes on.

fight?" said a voice reminis

cent of the late Alfie Bass's.

The Guv'nor'll give 'em a

RAHAM Pearcey writes from Surrey about the early attempts of the Halifax to adapt now that it has merged with another building society, the Leeds. He received a letter from general manager Paul Martin, explaining that "over time. we intend to remove some of the duplication". On the same day, Mr Pearcey received a second letter from Paul Martin, reassuring him that "over time, we intend to remove some of the duplication".

HE last word on the Scott report has come. predictably enough, from the ruby-red lips of my friend Elizabeth Peacock. the maverick Tory MP for Batley and Spen. Last time we met, Mrs Peacock was considering whether to sue herself for libel, but bas now turned her laser-like Writing in the Spenborough Guardian, she says: "It is an absolute disgrace that Parliament should spend so much time discussing a report of such size and weight that I could not carry it, never mind read it." How true — and how much longer Parliament might have found had the report been less of a burden to the scales. However, Mrs Peacock's criticisms extend far beyond pounds and ounces: the debates provoked by the report were "make bad television".

HE consumer-affairs desk has been contacted by Mr Michael
Wint of the London Restaurant Guide, a body offering members discounts on meals and even the occasional free glass of hous white. Mr Wint says he is keen to meet up "to discuss ways in which we can work together . . . I would like to discuss editorial about our activities." For such edito-rial. Mr Wint offers a commission on the fees of new members recruited thanks to the article. The Diary is completely corrupt (it intends, for example, to accept the free meal offered by Mr A Latif, Lord of Harpole, whose Newcastle restaurant was plugged here last week), and is keen to be bribed. The only problem. Mr Wint, is this nonsense about commission. If you can come up with a decent down payment. I think we can do business.

ROM Police Magazine comes yet more encouraging evidence that the constabulary's intellectual standards continue their inexorable climb. A certain PC Relf, on stachment to Telford CID, filled in a form about the suspect's facial bair, and his answers are shown in italies, Type: moustache. Colour: black. Description:



### Military manoeuvres keep us in the dark

#### Commentary Will

Hutton

RITAIN has just been paid an extraordinary compliment — the more remarkable because of whence it came. President Chirac, launching the biggest shake-up of the French defence effort and strategy for 30 years, told his fellow countrymen that his aim was for France's army to become at least the equal of Britain's within six years. Gaullist France has for long boasted that it is the world's third military power, the star-tling admission that it lags the British is close to national

In the cold-war world where deterrence hinged on a large standing army and nuclear capacity, together with equipment produced by a national military-industrial complex, in which the aim was to fight a set-piece war in mainland Europe, France's claim made some sense. But after the Gulf some sense. But after the Gulf | necessary to engage in today's war and Bosnia, underlining | more limited warfare, the

the new importance of the ability to move large numbers of men quickly, and which d the French to their limits, France's military stance has seemed more and more outmoded. Last week's

more outmoded. Last week's dramatic changes were aimed at transforming that strategy.

But they also underline the scale of the opportunity now open to the British, but which will disappear as the French realign their defence effort. Successive defence cuts had threatened the British position, but with the French in tion, but with the French in the throes of change the defence leadership of Europe is now there for the taking, along with the influence that would bring in the determination of any common European tion of any common European foreign and security policy. Here is an ace that could be played to construct a Europe that more accommodates British interests

Chirac's moves are at once a recognition of the furility of what has gone before — and a real threat to the emerging relative strength of the British effort. The planned 150,000 reduction in military person-nel over six years and the abolition of conscription are but the first planks in the creation of a new British-style profes sional army; but in order to enhance the kind of mobility

French intend to build up European collaboration. That means strengthening the de-fence wing of the EU and, in hard military terms, building up the ties with the Germans in the infant European army

the Euro-corps.
Hence the importance of yesterday's leaked report to the Bundestag's defence committee in which the German defence minister. Valker defence minister, Volker Rühe, declares that the Ger-man army needs to develop a mobile capacity to mirror that of the French. "The essential structural, staff and material conditions for taking part in missions in the framework of international crisis manage-ment will be created by the year 2000," he says. This was no accidental leak, coming as it did a week after Chirac's announcement and the same day that the French and German foreign ministers met in Freiburg to complete the joint Franco-German position that will be presented to the intergovernmental conference, be-ginning at the end of next month. French and German military co-ordination is mov-ing into a higher gear — and they intend that the rest of us should know about it.

Klaus Kinkel and Herve de Charette are insistent that the Western European Union, the still weak club that co-ordinates its European members army is even more deep-

defence policies, should become the fully fledged European arm of Nato and responsible to the EU's Council of Ministers. They want a Common Foreign and Security Policy together with its own secretary-general and planning staff; and they aim to build up the Euro-corps so that it can move men and muthat it can move men and munitions on a scale that cur-rently only the British pos-sess. Moreover they urge more majority voting in Brus-sels, and a definite commitment that those countries that wish to accelerate the integration process will be free to do so - and not subject to the veto of the most reluctant, in other words the British. Yet, as with so much in mat-

With France in the throes of change Europe's defence leadership is there

for the taking

ters European, just below the surface lurk profound cul-

tural and political difficulties that the grand talk of integra-tion carefully ignores. Estab-lishing a professional army is not just a technical matter for either the French or Germans; history casts a long

shadow over both countries. Charles Millon, the French defence minister, writing in Le Monde this week (see page 11), tries to assure the French public that ending conscrip-tion need not end the tradi-tion of republican civic vir-tue, established in the Revolution, of doing military service to serve the republic

country, says Dr Philip Gor-don of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, is just not shared in mainland Europe, A professional Euro-corps is seen as a necessary evil — and Germany in particular is reluctant to part with the amateur, conscript army that has characterised the most sucessful period of state-

most sucessful period of state-hood in its history.

It is these fears and appre-hensions — along-with the sheer gaps in European mili-tary competence and capabil-ity — that Britain is uniquely equipped to assuage. Nor need the gains of leading Europe's defence effort be solely diplo-matic. Europe's defence in-dustry is to be rationalised, with the French actively looking for partners; here lie some juicy deals. And there are con-cessions to be wrung over the Common Agricultural Policy, and even the timing and structure of monetary union, in exchange for British participation in a common Euro-pean defence effort.

But it will not happen; Euro-scepticism, lack of nerve and poverty of the imagina tion kill any such notion stone dead. Instead, the lead will be passed back to the French — whose careful rejoining of the military com-mittee of Nato before last December is all part of a larger game plan. Chirac's famous compliment will prove to be double-edged. The British may be Europe's current milistrength he knows that our own prejudices prevent us ever creatively

### seated: it was professional generals after all, who served both the Kaiser and Hitler. The British and American confidence that a professional army will never get involved in political coups or influence the political life of the country says Dr. Phillip Gor. to Corinthians I



David McKie

**MALF WAY through Sat-**MALF WAY through Saturday's Guardian extracts from Peter Mandelson's (and Roger Liddle's) new book, I suddenly thought of the Labour Church, an in-stitution from the early days of the Movement more ambitious and elaborate in design than the nowadays more often remembered Socialist Sunday Schools. It began, like so many good things, in Man-chester, and spread rapidly through the manufacturing towns of Lancashire and the West Riding, though (rather like Rugby League) it never took root in the South. The Church brought together two kinds of socialist those who were also devout Christians. and others with no such belief who simply felt that if you

wanted to preach a faith you needed a church. At Bolton, the oldest Congregational church in the own defected en bloc to the Labour Church after listening to an address by the dockers' leader Ben Tillett. In Bradford, where Liberal non-conformists refused to give Tillett a platform, the socialists in the congregation defected and set up a Labour Church of their own. The church had its own hymns, whose tunes were often pragmatically pinched from existing hymnals. Like God Save The Working Man. sung to the tune of the

National Anthem. The creed preached by Man-delson (and Liddle) may be entirely secular, yet it seems and there to have a smack of religious observance about it. That is partly because it calls for such a lot of repentance. Those who over the years subscribed to, or even vaguely supported, Old Labour have clearly been at most grievous fault. They have done those things which they ought not to have done, and left undone those things they ought to have done like getting rid of what Man-delson (and Liddle) call the "infamous" Clause IV long bemost clearly in the long list of paragraphs in Saturday's centre and left can subscribe", each beginning with the trig-

ger "whereas".
Now "whereas" is lawyer's agreements or even of constilanguage of Church. Yet the way it's deployed by Mandelson (and Liddle) irresistibly recalls passages like the one \*Or "the non-ministerial polit-in Corinthians I where the ical manager inside No 10",

ing from darkness to light. "When I was a child. I spake as a child, I understood as a child. I thought as a child; but when I became a man. I put away childish things" is a very whereassy sentence. though St Paul, or his transla-tors, go one better than Man-delson (and Liddle) by employing the simpler "but".

Above all I found in these sentences an echo of those ele-

ments in the liturgy known as versicles and responses, where the minister states a proposition and the congregaproposition and the congrega-tion responds in the words chosen for it. It would be the work of a moment to trans-form the teachings of Mandel-lid into versicles and responsof outcome and the right.

The Minister\* shall say:
Whereas the left desired quality of outcome and the right.

individual liberty to do whatever they pleased

The Congregation shall say: New Labour sets as it goal real equal opportunity for all, and special privileges for none.

Then shall the Minister say Whereas the left appeared to

that one was reponsible for oneself alone The Congregation shall say: New Labour stresses the im-

argue for rights without responsibilities and the right

portance of mutual obliga-tions ... And so on. HERE are further valu-

able possibilities in the little group of verdicts on Blair which appeared in Monday's paper, with their unmistakable tone of Lives Of The Saints. For example, just to emphasise what a Broad Church this is: "Blair does not carry any animus towards those who defected to the SDP." (Just as well, since one was Liddle.) "He felt as little sympathy with the old right in the party, with their reliance on local machine politics and deal-making and fixing votes with the unions, as he did with the old left." Then there's the handy parable about Blair privately warning John Smith against his tax and nationalinsurance proposals ("infa-mous tax and national-insurance proposals" as they'll no doubt be called in the second edition) in the run-up to the 1992 election — but then, out of loyalty to a friend and senior, acquiescing in them: "It was a mistake," M and L add improvingly, from which Blair learned. You can get a hundred little things right, fore the final years of this cen-tury. You can catch this spirit points you lose." It also, I see, says here:

"Nothing infuriates Blair Guardian setting out "a new more than London-based jour-synthesis to which all of the nalists purporting to offer inthey have little contact with and claiming that the grass-Now "whereas" is lawyer's roots have no sympathy with language, the stuff of binding his changes." That sentence, I suggest, may need to be read. not just from time to time, like the others, but at least once a

week.
\* Or "the non-ministerial polition of the non-ministerial polition of 10". images have to do with pass- whichever may be appropriate.

## The secret guardians

We must legislate for open government if we are to prevent the dishonesty revealed by Scott, argues Richard Shepherd

F THE Scott report has one unifying theme, it is secrecy. Sir Richard Scott is critical of the secretive way in which arms-licensing decisions are taken and of the proposition that all "policy" documents. regardless of their contents, must be protected by public-interest immunity. Above all, he reminds us how easily and often information is withheld from Parliament and public. This, in particular, seems to have inflamed his critics, who | tions, law enforcement, prisee nothing unusual about the parliamentary answers that he highlights, and marvel that he does not understand why it is necessary to keep MPs in the dark.

Scott does not merely docu-ment the incomplete and misleading replies given to par-liamentary questions — he spells out the consequences. "In circumstances where dis-closure might be politically or administratively inconvenient, the balance struck by the Government comes down, time and time again, against full disclosure," he concludes. This secrecy "denies the public the ability to make an informed judgment on the Government's record". "involves a dilution... of the obligations imposed by ministerial accountability", and "undermines, in my opinion, the democratic process".

The problem is clear, but what of the answer? The report itself proposes a few relcome, if relatively modest, reforms. It recommends a review of the convention under which ministers (of all parties) have long refused to answer certain classes of par-liamentary questions. It suggests that arms-licensing de-cisions should be subject to parliamentary debate. But se do not deal with the underlying problem that Scott so clearly identifies: that considerations of embarrassment and administrative convenience are so routinely given precedence over the public's right to information.

The answer, though not directly mentioned in the report, leaps out at us: a Free-dom of Information Act, giv-ing the public an enforceable right to offical information.

The point of such an act is

side Parliament, by a commis-sioner with the power to make binding orders. Of course, there would be ex-emptions, covering all the predictable areas: harm to defence, security, foreign relavacy and so on. But the need to avoid political embarrass-ment would not be among them. Decisions on disclosure would be isolated from the po-litical factors that obscure the real issues when Parliament deliberates: the need to sus-tain a controversial policy, protect a threatened minister, deny ammunition to critics or boost an opinion-poll

rating.
The Government will argue that its own open-government reforms mean that such legislation is not needed. There has indeed been some advance. The Code of Practice on Access to Government In-formation, introduced by William Waldegrave in 1994, dur-ing his time as Minister for Public Service, is a step in the right direction. It offers the right to complain via an MP to the Parliamentary Ombudsman about refusals to release information subject to the code. One of the first cases under it led to the release of the report of an incomplete road inquiry affecting my own constituency, which min-

isters had repeatedly refused to publish over several years. The code itself would have greater credibility if its own existence was not such a wellkept secret. Launched on a Bank Holiday during a parliamentary recess, few know about it, barely anyone uses it turn away people seeking information without troubling to be accountable. And that



taken seriously by Whitehall, and the code provides new opportunities that people should use. But the Government is not obliged to follow the ombudsman's recommendations Ministers are above all politicians, with political instincts. What will those instincts tell them to do when the information sought is so damaging that it would threaten their jobs if made public?

A Freedom of Information Act would remove the option of "toughing out" an unwel-come decision. It would apply across the whole public se (the code does not) and it would override the innumerable statutory prohibitions on disclosure, which an adminis-trative code cannot do.

But I believe freedom of information must have the force of law for a more fundamental reason. It would establish that it is our right as citizens to know what the Government is doing. That government has no option but

willingness of a parliamen-tary majority to tolerate lack of frankness — but on a binding obligation set out in law. There is no Freedom of Information Bill before Parliament at present, but in a few days' time another bill which touches some of these themes comes up for debate. Don Touhig's Public Interest Disclosure Bill would protect from reprisals employees and civil ervants who raise concerns about crime, fraud or serious malpractice. They must raise the issue internally first, giving those in charge the chance to put things right. Here too is the principle of accountability, for once those at the top have learnt what is

going on, they will be liable if people are later injured by their failure to act. If an individual raises the matter internally, but nothing is done and serious malpractice continues, the indi-vidual would be protected for blowing the whistle. He or she accountability cannot be must not be acting in bad based on the flexible interpre- faith. or trying to make

agree. Of course more young people need to see aducation as the ladder to better lives, and need to take advantage of

cial to success. I heartily ought to be able to tackle the

tation of guidelines or the | money out of a disclosure, and most importantly must be able to persuade a court or tribunal that any disclosure was lawful and justified in the public interest. In some circumstances this may mean limiting the disclosure to a regulatory body; in others a wider publication would be justified. The individual who has

acted in the public interest could not be dismissed, or pe-nalised in other ways. Organisations would know that when serious concerns are brought to them they must deal with them properly, and employees would know that the law would protect them for raising such issues. Not least, we the public would stand a better chance of avoiding the tragic accidents and financial scandals that could have been stopped, had the right person blown whistle at the right time.

Richard Shepherd. Conservative MP for Aldridge Brownhills, voted against the Government in the Scott deba

problems of education immediately. His party is in power in many places. Why did his party waste so much time op-

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John Redwood finds plenty in the Mandelson/ Riddle book to worry Labour friend and foe alike

### eft with no beef

Mandelson and Roger Liddle roll out the platitudes in their new book. Socialists will be left asking: where is the socialism? The rest of us will It's a mixture of hot air and constitutional turmoil. We are offered hot air for training hot air for higher educations of Parliament. Health, ing, hot air for higher educa-tional standards, hot air for education, local government,

training and hot air for everyone having an opportunty. We are offered regional government. European govern-

a Labour MP to team up a strengthened Number 10, a revamped and beefed up Cabinet Office, and superministers to implement main revamped and beeted up Caninet Office, and superminis-ters leading teams of Cabinet ministers to implement main policies. It is mainly Blur, but there are cases of constitu-tional upheaval.

There's something for everyone, even for MPs. They are promised better salaries. It is difficult to see why, for transport and environment matters would transfer to the new regional assemblies. Con-trol over interest rates, the ernment. European govern- level of public borrowing and ment and more Whitehall much else besides would pass government. We are promised | to the European Central Bank. |

There would be plenty more government as a result, but rather less accountability. MPs quizzed by their constituents over why their mortgage was so high or why their firm was closing would refer them to Frankfurt. Asked why their local hospital would not not treat them or why a new road was going close to their back door, the MP would have to refer them to the new regional

New Labour is keen to dump extrovert socialism. They rule out belief that state planning and control produce economic success. Profit is no longer a dirty word. Nationalisation is not the answer to ties, have the power to take just this action. Why are they Education, they say, is cruenot doing so? Tony Blair Labour Deliver? (Faber, 27.99) industrial problems.

the schools and colleges on offer. Too many children fail to learn to read and write to an acceptable standard at primary school. Too many then need remedial teaching when they get to secondary school. Peter Mandelson and Tony Blair now say: "Performance must be regularly assessed ... Heads must be up to the job. Unsatisfactory teachers expectations of their pupils —
must be retrained or removed.
There should be zero tolerance of failure."

> have dared put it. Why then is Labour in power in most of the education authorities of the country not doing just this? Governing bodies with many Labour representatives, and Labour education authori-

particularly teachers with low This is all excellent stuff, if a little tougher than I would

party waste so much time op-posing tests and publication of test results, when they now think measuring and publish-ing performance matters? Peter Mandelson's book just opens up the fears of many about New Labour. The true socialist will ask: what's the point of Labour winning if it's not committed to redistribution, nationalisation and state planning? The uncommitted voter will want to know why Labour, already is power in county and borough govern-ment, has not done in our schools what it is now

Some floating voters will float away again before the election. They are certainly not going to like Labour's view that we should give our country away to Brussels and Frankfurt as a friendly ges-ture to Chancellor Kohl.

The Blair Revolution --- Can New

## Child of the Revolution

a few, history comes right in set up the state farm system the hidden widow of a forcotten man, Nikolai Bukharin, theoretician of the Russian revolution and member of the | was Nikolai Ivanovich Bukhawho became the most prominent victim of Stalin's purge Anna Larina lived to tell the

tale — and to deliver Bukhar-in's final letter to the country he had helped create, and to see him bonoured by the Communist Party he had fought to steer away from dictatorship towards socialist humanism. With her death, at the age of 82, the last link to the inner circle of those who made the Larina was a true child of

the revolution. After her mother's death from tubercuosis, she had been adopted by an aunt. Yelena, and her invawas looked after by her grandfather while her parents, committed revolutionaries, spent the first world war in exile in Geneva. Only after the 1917 February revolution did they got to know her father through the letters he wrote to her from Petrograd (St Peters burg) where he was a Menshe vik deputy to the Soviet. The fairy tales he wrote for his daughter - of fat mice exploiting skinny worker mice -stuck with her. Larina remained loyal to the 1917 October Bolshevik revolution, and to Marxism, throughout her life. Then, when the revolutionary government moved to Moscow in 1919, she moved in with her parents to room 305 in the Hotel Metropol where they remained until

HERE are few nev as well as other central happy endings in committee members came to Russian history, but discuss politics and tactics the life of Anna Lar with her bedridden father, an ina proved that, for economics expert who helped and was involved in the early state planning. But of all the to the Larins' apartment, it Ishevik central committee rin, a close friend and colleague of her father, who at-



and paintings and the menag-erie he kept in his room one floor below. Aged 10, Anna lying in state and remembers Bukharin, who Leain had called the "golden boy" of the revolution, weeping openly beside the coffin.

A year later she was com-

posing poems to Bukharin. Her father teased her and suggested she take the poem down to Bukharin. Meeting Stalin, she asked him to de-liver the letter. The man who acted as a go-between would later destroy the couple's

The 42-year-old Bukharin and the teenage Anna fell in love in 1930 when Bukharin, ousted from the Politburo, stripped of the editorship of Pravida and of his position as head of the Comintern, was already being accused of lead-It was here that ahe met the lead of the Comintern, was leading figures of the revolution; Lenin, Zinoviev, Kame- ing the "rightist Trotskyite dearly, he went to Paris to

forced collectivisation and

The 16th Party Congress had intimated the terror to be waged on old Bolsheviks and rivals to Stalin, Bukharin, aware of the danger, was hesi-tant about dragging Anna into Kremlin intrigue and factionalism. But her father encour aged Anna to spend time with Bukharin and he told her. Ten years with Nikolai Ivaning than a lifetime with any

When they eventually mar-ried in 1934, Anna was plunged into the nightmarish world of Stalln's peranoia where her life and fac, as a Kremlin wife, hinged on that of her husband. The couple moved into the Kremlin aparthis wife Nadezhda Allihuveva then editor of lavestia, was enjoying a brief period of When Leningrad party boss:
Sergei Kirov was assassinated in 1934 — probably on Stalin's orders — Bukharin refused to discuss the matter with his beautiful, dark-haired young bride. Did he know that the 17th Party Congress that year was the last that many old Bolsheviks would attend?

Life with Bukharin was a mixture of politics and amuse then frozen out of the leader-ship, he continued to contribute to party policy and was involved in drafting the new Soviet Constitution. In her 1993 memoirs This I Cannot Forget, Larina shows her hus-band as a dedicated Bolshevik, loyal to the principles of the revolution, finding time to read French novels with her in their Kremlin apartment and to play practical jokes. In 1936, when Bukharin knew

Anna Larina . . . Stalin delivered her love letter to Bukharin

Marx archive from former Menshevik colleagues. In the midst of delicate discussions, ware that any sign of disloyalty to Stalin would be reported to Moscow, he took his heavily pregnant wife sightseeing. In Montmartre he did handstands to amuse her. ria's warning: "If you want to live, then shut up about Bu-kharin", Lerina did not forget him or the letter addressed To It was an alleged conversa-tion with Boris Nikolaevaky, a Menshevik ex-colleague of A Future Generation Of provided the pretext for Buk-harin's arrest by the NKVD in Soviet Leaders that Bukharin made her memorise before his Moscow in February 1937. Larina, as the wife of an arrest. She recited it "like a prayer" in the camps and only enemy of the people, was ar-rested later that year. She ter ber return from Siberian exile in 1959 did she dare write spent the next 20 years in

an underground cell in the Lubyanka, then in 1941 she was sent to the Gulag. Released in 1945, she was ex-

Despite interrogation by to do so until 1969, when Lavrenty Beria, Stalin's henchman, and the hellish life of the Gulag Larina survived. Many wives, including Ekatarina Kallina, wife of the Soviet President, and Nadezida, Bukharin's crippled first wife did not. Despite Betting to do so until 1969, when under Khrushchev's amnesty to the victims of Stalin's Terror, she was fully parture up in orphanages, finally found his mother in 1956. At first Larina refused to tell him the first was He tried to press: Trotskey Radek? Kama. who his father was. He tried to guess: Trotsky? Radek? Kame-nev? Zinoviev? When he said Bukharin, Larina replied: "That's it." Together, the two cam-

paigned quietly for Bukhar-in's rehabilitation. Letters to the Soviet leader Nikitz Khru shchev were ignored and when she wrote to his succes-sor Leonid Brezhnev in the 1970s, she was told that Bukharin remained a criminal in Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, finally the name of Bukharin and his role in Soviet history could be mentioned again. Larina was Ogonyok and Bukharin's let was published in Decem-1987. The following year ber 1987. The following year the literary journal Znamys began the serialisation of her

Bukharin was officially rehabilitated on February 4. 1988 and Larina became the centre of media attention, her reminiscences a valuable eyewitness account of the Terror. of her life to preserving Buk-harin's memory. In reviewing Bukharin's trial in 1968, a Soviet judge called him "a fighter to the end". So was his widow. She is survived by Yurl and a daughter and son from her second marriage to Fyodor Fadeyev, who she met in the camps and married in

Isobel Montgomery

**Another Day** 

February 28, 1945; Harold Nicolson told us several stories about literary celebrities. In 1919 he dined with Proust, who made H tell him all he had done that day. He did not let him omit one detail, and made him describe events from the beginning. Who called him in the morning? Was the bath water run for him? What razor did he shave with? Did he use lotion? And what was it called? Why this? How that? Virginia Woolf had a similar appetite for little things. Her curiosity was insatiable. She wanted to know what pen nibs office clerks used and how often they changed their blotting paper. Haroid feels sure posterity will always read her for her observation of detail if for no other reason ... She had no memory. I told him that Logan Pearsall Smith said The Mark On The Wall in her last book, A Haunted House. was a direct crib from Thack-eray. Harold maintained that all artists plagiarised, and he told the story I have heard before of her being threatened with a libel action for taking a live lady novelist's name for a tombstone inscription in The Voyage Out. James Lees-Milne, Prophesying Peace.

#### **Birthdays**

Peter Alliss, golfer, commen tator, 65; Philip Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey, 50; Stephanie Beacham, actress, 47; Alfred Burke, actor, 78; Dr Jonathan Clark, historian, 45; Robin Cook, Labour MP, shadow Foreign Secretary, 50 Barry Fantoni, novelist, car-toonist and jazz musician, 56: Tristan Garel-Jones MP, former Conservative minister, 55; Helen Grindrod, QC. Crown Court Recorder, 60; Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 92; Maj-Gen Michael Hobbs, director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 59; Prof Susan Iver-son, behavioural psychologist, 56; Prof John Irvine, physicist, principal and vice-chancellor, Abet deen University, 57; Thomas Kempner, Emeritus Professor of Man-agement Studies, Brunel University, 68; Jeremy Lancaster, chairman and managing director, Wolseley, 60; Barry McGuigan, boxer, 85; George Malcolm, pianist, composer 79; Brian Moore, football commentator, 84; Robin Phil-lips, actor and director, 54; Peter Stothard, editor, the Times, 45; Sir Brian Ur-

#### Hugh Lamprey

### **Made in Africa**

that continent was to be his life. He had already travelled to Iceland, the Himalayas and the Canaries on student expe-Egypt, and had served in Palestine and Egypt as a tank officer (tanks being "great" for watching birds), but that first job as biologist at Tanganyika's game department seemed to settle the matter Thenceforth, save for returnto Dovon in retirement, the continent of Africa - notably its eastern part — gave him home and happiness.

When an undergraduate at Oxford he had seemed (to this contemporary) to be one more bright-cycd, diligent and unexciting student, most notable for his quaint walk and deep voice. But Africa, although it dud nothing for the walk or the voice, built Hugh Lamprey. This was most noticeable at

the famous Arusha conference of 1961. All manner of distinat this northern Tanganyikan the presumed fate of Africa's Africa gained their independence (Somehow forgetting that the huge herds which so impressed the early European arrivals had been living in purmership with Africans for

centuries). Hugh acted as tour leader when the Arusha delegates visited Manyara, Nrorongoro and Serengeti for, as it were, a final look at the animal treasurehouse about to be disblades back into shape with

prey, who has died aged stood around a dead rhino 67, set foot in Africa, which had been speared by Maasai. The gloom was con-siderable but Hugh was enthused. He was eager for the future, knowing that the past with Alricans re entful tha their big game had become big business for pale-faced for-eigners — had been none too

Putting his enthusiasm into action, he became the first African Wildlife Management (at Mweka in Tanzania), In the next 30 years this institution was to train 2,500 game wardens from 25 nations. In 1966, Hugh left to become di-rector of the Serengeti Research Institute, where many world-famous beha-

They were a skilled and demanding group who needed careful handling. Tanzania's current nantung, tanzana s government has, alas, not been as wise as Hugh had originally expected, and the SRI has suffered accordingly. causing him disappointment rather than anger — as was

itis way. East Africa is rich with anecdotes concerning Lamprey: such as the time he landed his Piper Cub acroplane on the Kilimanjaro "saddle" between the peaks of Ribo and Mawenzi, For take-off from this altitude of 16,000 feet, a group of Mweka students were asked to hold the tail for as



Wildlife expert . . . Lamprey rocks, altered instructions to

soon flying back to base. On another occasion, when landing near Lake Victoria, he heard popping but did not realise trigger-happy frontier guards were shooting his way. A truckful of militia quickly surrounded him, asked for identification, received it correctly, and were then told how

best to shoot down aircraft. For the second half of his in Nairobi, working for Unesco, Unep. WWF, and IUCN, the organisations which promote conservation in all its forms. For a lifetime dedicated to this cause he was awarded the Order of the Golden Ark in 1987, and various others, including the OBE

He was most happily mar-ried for 42 years, and has a son following in his footsteps and currently working in Uganda, and a daughter. Hugh officially retired in 1989, but at the slightest excuse would be back in his beloved continent without a moment's

Hugh Francis Lamprey, ecologist, born August 2, 1928; died February 10, 1996

erating under postwar auster ity but subject to the forward-looking policies of Kenneth Robinson (obttuary February 21). Almost on the site of the new British Library, was the Euston Road branch — in a Europe still licensed to raise converted single-storey shop. a private army. He inspired torian house had been taken over. There, after school, children would sit in their own fine weather, out on the patio in the garden, to be read to by one of the library staff. This routine was yet another exam-ple of the enlightened cultural policies pursued by Kenneth

rison or exile meeting other

Kremlin wives in transit

with the memories of her father and husband which she

E Avoola writes: IK Dairo's passing (obituary Rebruary 24) will be sorely felt in Nigeria. The music of Baba Aladura (prayer man), as he was known was one of the few uplifting aspects of life in an otherwise depressing Nigeria, from independence to date.

Robinson's St Pancras.

Geraldine Cook writes: I was a Penguin Books editor in the seventies and eighties when Roger Omond (obttuery Febru-ary 10 was our unofficial adviser on South Africa. His judgment led to the publication of some crucially impor-tant books. His approach to the Penguin Special, The Apartheid Handbook, a com-plex work laying out its dayto-day reality, was typical of Roger. Simply, clearly, and without comment he completed the tight three-month schedule to the day. It sold in its thousands. He flew the flag of the complete with the complete of the complet of truth, whether writing about apartheid or his own fight against cancer.

#### The Duke of Atholi

### Michael J Smith writes: Between sixth form and university in 1990, I worked in St Pancras branch libraries, op

oll, who has died at the age of 64, was the only rumours of a march on V ment was debating the Scottish devolution bill. But George Iain Murray, a bach-elor nicknamed "wee Iain" because he was 6ft 5 inches tall, was at heart a painfully shy, scrupulously polite paci-fist dedicated to preserving

his rolling acres.
"I'm quite well-suited to have a private army because I'm completely non-military," he said. "I could certainly mobilise it — but I couldn't do much after that."

He delightedly exploited his right, granted under decree by Queen Victoria during a visit to Blair Castle in the 1840s, as a prime attraction which drew 165,000 visitors a year to his home. His 60-strong regiment, the Atholl Highlanders, has 12

Athon Highlanders, has 12 pipers and eight drummers. Only local landowners can be officers; rank and file have traditionally been drawn from estate workers. For a generous fee, they have been on hire as stewards for the on hire as stewards for the Scotch Whisky piping cham-pionships and other publicity vents. They have the right, rarely

exercised, to march through Edinburgh with bayonets fixed. Their cannon fire does little more than break windows at the family seat near Pitlochry, a white stucco building which has been com-



Wee Jain . . . polite pacifist pared with a Disneyland gin-

gerbread fortress. Their ancestors were war riors. The old clan chieftains of Blair controlled the main route through the central highlands between Perth and Inverness. Runners carried fiery crosses through the countryside to marshal them.

They mustered for the crusades, for Robert the Bruce.

sades, for Robert the Bruce, for Charles II, for Bonnie Prince Charlie, against the American war of indepen-dence and raised 4,000 msn against the union of Scotland with England.
George Murray, who reckoned he could trace his ancestry back to the Picts, was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. When

he inherited the dukedom, he was an obscure junior executive in London.
He rose to be chairman of

the provincial newspaper group Westminster Press in its less dynamic years from

1974-93 and a director of Pearson Longman, part of the media group Pearson, be-tween 1975 and 1983. He was also chairman of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Landowners Federation, a member of the Red Deer Commission and president of the National Trust for Scotland. An Arab prince once flew uninvited into his grounds with an auctioneer, eager to buy the estate. People had been advising him to sell, but one of his last acts was to safeguard his inheritance for

perpetuity.
The estate and land were due to pass to a distant cousin, John Murray, a land surveyor in the South African the Duke invited his kinsmar to stay. Mr Murray, reportedly, was underwhelmed by the Scots climate and weather. Wee lain then vested Blair Castle and much of his land, thought to be worth £140 million, in a charitable trust in the name of an 11-year-old half nephew. This leaves John Murray to inherit the title only. The South African Murrays initially spoke of contesting this in court. But yesterday it looked as if the gulle of the Picts had once again carried the day.

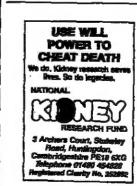
John Exard

George lain Murray, 10th Duke of Atholl, Earl of Tullibardine Lord Gask and Baiquhidder, Vis-count Glenlyon, and other Scots titles, born June 19, 1931; died Fabruary 27, 1996.

#### Death Notices

Harpensen, Norte ALS 2917, Tell 01952, 712862, 
VARLEY, On February 25th 1969 situry a struggle against cancer, RICHARD JOHN, younger son of the late Mr. & Mrs. E. Verley of Bramhalf, Cheetirs, Donations to Cancer Research or British Heart Foundation, Engatives to Ban Lloyd (F.D.) Ltd. TEL: 0161 485 3135 or 01605 8/2717. 
WARNESS, Johns Morgatt, futher of Arm, passed away peacefully on Thursday, 25nd Pebruary 1998 at Kings College Hospital-Funeral to be held on Tuesday, 55 March at 12.00 at Honor Oak Chrometorium, Brochley Way, SECA, No forwers please, done-bone to Virtuality Testing Museum, pto E L. Wicktes & Son, 114 Centmark Fell, Carniverwall SES 8701, tel: 0171 274 28th.

Birthdays



#### Jackdaw



#### Dear Deng

I HEAR THAT if I can just change my way of thinking. stoop to grant me mercy. Now, of course people's thinking is always subject to change, but if you're asking me to change my basic val-ues, well, my ideas are the fruit of long-term hardship and reflection, and you're asking too much.

YOUR problem is that you have too much ambition, too little talent, and you're narrow-minded. Mixing these elements together in a person

with as much power as your-

self can have only bad results
— for you and for China. My ambition and no particular talent, but at least I'm wide open to different ideas.

July 6, 1987

You say, "We are not afraid of pressure, we are not afraid of going it alone, no one has the right to interfere in our domestic affairs." You unscru-pulous schemer! Do you think that treating the people of China as a joke makes you some kind of hero? It's time to loosen the

strings. You and your family are facing dire problems. You're no better than an aucient patriarch Who are your real friends? Is it those who circle you for handouts? Is it those foxes and

dogs who snap at your feet and yeip for money? November 11, 1989

YOUR lust for power, your lust for greatness, should be more fully sated now than in the past. You're no longer at an age where you can devote all your energy to public issues. If you mess things up

now, you may undo your gen-uine accomplishments. So it's time to make way for younger people and use your lading energy to preserve yourself in your old age. If you want to maintain your stature, that's the best thing to do.

April 2, 1992
April 2, 1992
From a series of letters to Chinese ruler Deng Xiaoping written by imprisoned dissident
Wei Jingsheng, Jingsheng
passed the letters to a friend in 1994, shortly before beginning a lengthy prison term. They were smuggled out of China to Japan and translated by Philip J Cunningham. From the New York Times.

#### Smoke, no fire

THE EDITOR guy at Mother Jones asked me to go to some Los Angeles "cigar bars" to see what they were like. First I read several articles on the subject. They all claimed that cigar smoking is sweeping the nation, with the female cigar-smoking population growing the fastest.
Cigar Aficionado magazine

contained an article listing the hottest spots around LA

to smoke cigars. I couldn't find them. Occasionally I found the venues themselves but I never found them teeming with patrons. A woman a one of the restaurants said, We're not a cigar bar, but if we're empty, people can smoke cigars." I began to put it together: Cigar Aficionado might have a vested interest in hyping a cigar craze that doesn't exactly exist.

I kept returning to some of the places, figuring I just wasn't going at peak hours. The site of my first successful infiltration was the bar at the swanky Peninsula Hotel . . . ! sat near a gaggle of men struggling with cigars the size of baseball bats wedged in their mouths. They looked like those circus acts who

palance chairs on their chins . . The cigar smokers I ran across did seem pretentious and stupid, especially the women. I saw one woman choking on a puff. She looked like she was thinking, "This

can't possibly be what every-one is doing"... The Cigar Monthly...had an article by a a woman detheir dogs go to work. The scribing how she realised men had dog biscuits in one

smoking cigars was "some-thing my fiance and I could enjoy together, something in teresting and different." You'd think she would have noticed that they had so little they could enjoy together be-fore they got engaged. They probably went from mouths of uncomfortable silence in such stimulating conversa-

tion as:
"Honey, are you puffing?" "Yes, I'm puffing." I don't even date, but I feel safe in counseling that if you see cigar smoking as a beacon of hope for interaction with our fiance, you've unearthed a fairly severe shortcoming in the relationship. It might be a good time to go back over the guest list for your wedding and eliminate

the groom. Paula Poundstone chokes on the hype of the cigor industry for her regular column in the American political magazine Mother Jones.

**Heaven scent** WE WATCHED the men and pocket; they put truffles in the other. I wondered if they ever made an expensive mis-take . . . We hunched our shoulders and folded our arms and shivered as Mandarine, Rocchia's dachshund, picked up the scent.

Any breed or mongrel can be trained... [it] is the quickest way to add value to a mutt. But ultimate performance is individual. The controlled collaboration between mas-



ter and dog, with no barking, no excess digging, no wasted nergy, is intense. Mandarine, quivering with diminutive intelligence, was not up to scratch because this

oak grove was not her usual

patch. "Cherches, Mandarine, cherches!" "Où elle est? Où elle est?" Rocchia's whispered enconragements might have whipped up a mild sexual fervour in all of us, had it not been for the wind. Mandarine trembled and scurried and tunneled. Suddenly Rocchia was on his knees beside her. She stepped aside to let him finish, What a delicate job! He scooped up the cold, friable oil and sank his face into it. "Ah, smell that!" He held up the precious black growth, his nose shaded by a ches smear of earth. Encircling him, we walted for initi-

Old postcards show the truffle-hunters working with pies Pigs dig deeper than dogs, but they also like truffles. They can break a man's arm, or sever a finger, to keep their find. Getting them into the car is mother drawback. You will be hard put to find a truffling pig in Provence today. All of us from London were sad about this, because we had been led to expect one, but "Le cochon est mort, "declared Rocchia — so that was that . . . We have some fine speci-

mens to hand now, and it's time to eat ... Rocchia relaxes over the wine and reflects upon his part-time life as a rabassier. (Une rabasse is the rabassier. (Une rabasse is the local name for truffle, and it's derogatory.) He says that the hunt for the truffle is probably a greater pleasure than eating it. True. Truffle-hunting is a passion, ambivalent for all concerned, often practised under difficult conditions, but compelling and addictive. Lesley Chamber lain takes a trip from London to Provence in search of the "black diamond". From Prospect

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**Dan Glaister** 

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> To:  $Th_{C}$

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

## Finance Guardian

## Record £2bn for Barclays

ARCLAYS yesterday continued the strong profit performances from the banks, break-ing the £2 billion barrier for the first time to earn what chief executive Martin Taylor described as return that is very high by historical standards".

The bank's staff union, Unifi, leapt on the results as buttressing its pay claim. Yesterday, it revealed that 85 per cent of members had turned down a pay offer from Barclays which it said was

worth 28 per cent.
The union has asked for a minimum of 3.2 per cent to keep pace with annual infla-tion up to the end of Janu-ary. It also wants less over-

ary. It also wants less over-time and a minimum pay level in line with the "Euro-pean decency threshold". Unifi assistant general-sec-retary, lain MacLean, said last night: "There are 17,000 staff paid below the decency threshold. In a head, that's threshold. In a bank that's making more than £2 billion profit, that is absolutely

Mr MacLean said the results would strengthen his members' resolve in resisting the pay offer, despite last year's abortive national strike which failed to force a higher offer out of the bank. The ballot result yesterday showed that 55 per cent of union members were in favour of moving to a strike

Chairman Andrew Buxton said he was confident a settlement could be reached without another strike, and promised that most staff would be better off as a result of the total pay offer. He was non-committal,

banking union Bifu that 10,000 jobs were at risk be-



Telling smiles. . . Barclays chief executive Martin Taylor (left) and chairman Andrew Buxton, confident staff will not strike

decade. "It may be a reasonable estimate," Mr Buxton said. But he added: "The The major branch closure trend of numbers will be downwards from the impact of technology. But there will however, on claims from the be more people in technology, more in banking ser-vices and more in invest-

programme has come to an end, however. Only a handful of branches were closed

last year and the same will apply in 1996. The bank's resistance to

been buoyed by City con-cerns that its cost base has been expanding too fast. Total costs rose by 8 per cent last year, although that was exaggerated by special costs such as redundancy, and the rate of increase fell to 3 per cent in the second half of the

disappointment that the bank did not initially anounce plans to buy back shares, led to Barclays' share price falling yesterday

But a buy-back was an-nounced in the afternoon. Barclays used just over

£300 million of its spare cash to buy 40 million shares, or 2.5 per cent of the total. repeating last year's

exercise.

Martin Taylor said: "We have got plenty of cash to do what we need to do. A buy-back is a way of managing

April 1 start-up. But John

Kent, director of business

development at British Gas

Supply, said that if a short

delay ensured competition could be introduced in an

pany supported the Ofgas

Hard selling of the new

packages on offer in the region has already caused controversy with SwebGas,

one of the earliest declared

entrants, coming under fire

recently from the Gas Con-

Competitors have been

ensured competition

### Greasing wheels for easier ride



Alex Brummer

BRINGING Railtrack to the stock market has not been the easy ride of some earlier privatisations. A year ago, the Government was forced to back down on the charges which Railtrack would make to the franchises, after it became clear that the after it became clear that the rates of return would not be sustainable. This at a stroke halved the likely flotation returns. More recently, there has been great concern to show that the franchises can be successfully put in the commercial sector so that the published projections, on flotation have agreed ordifilities. ation have some credibility

the marketplace.
The remaining obstacle to the sell-off has been debt levels. British Rail boss Bob Horton has maintained strongly throughout the tran-sition that if Railtrack is to have a chance in the private sector then it cannot carry the current £1.5 billion on its books. The Government, fearful of what the Opposition will make of a buge new paper subsidy at this late stage (the prospectus and book building will be under-way by late April), has baulked. Now a crafty way has been found of squaring the circle. Railtrack's debt will be pared back to £589 million — which means the Trea-sury taking a £1 billion book hit — in return there has been a promise that Railtrack will plough up more than half-a-billion pounds into upgrading cross-London lines through Thameslink 2000,

£100 million into the pot. With Railtrack in the pri vate sector, relatively unen-cumbered by debt, it should ment relatively easy given the promise of extra income from unning some 24 trains an hour in each direction against the current six. The Government's retreat

with the Government putting

on Railtrack debt, with the promise of extra earnings, already is being seen as positive for the flotation. Estimates in the past have suggested that the Treasury would raise around £1.5 billion from flotation — that figure is now moving to £1.7 billion and northwards. At that level, Railtrack could make the Footsie, vital in terms of attracting some fund management interest. This will all no doubt be great for investors and frustrated Lontaxpayer they might wonder why the Treasury/Transport department has bothered.

#### Kvaerner rescue

Amec in last year's con-tested takeover, the Kvaerner group has now which is a sounder way of

whose current fortune is best symbolised by the 300 passen-gers stranded in the South China Sea aboard the Cunard liner the Sagafjord. The arrival of Kværner on the scene has a certain piquancy; it was SBC Warburg corporate finance boss Brain Regulations. lan who was responsible for Kvaerner's failed bid for Amec as well as introducing Jardine Matheson to the de-

Jardine Matheson to the de-lights of Trafalgar.

The effort by Jardines, through their HongKong Land offshoot, to establish a London bridgehead before the Peoples Republic of China takes over in 15 months time has not been a great success. Trafalgar has suffered a series of high profile problems, since HongKong Land moved in, including the disastrous refit of the QE2. The restructuring of the company, including its engineering offshoots John Brown and Days including its engineering off-shoots John Brown and Davy International, led to enor-mous losses in the year to September 30, 1995. Although it has been possible to argue since then, that Trafalgar has come through its worst. Certainly, Kaverner, as Europe's biggest shipbuilder.

Europe's biggest shipbuilder, would find a great deal of value in the engineeering divisions. Moreover, it might even be possible to argue that the cruise business could be a vertical fit: although that is less likely. Kvaerner should not be under any illusions either about the investment needs of Cunard, which has fallen behind P&O and other in the cruising stakes in recent years. The stock marnight at how high Kvaerner night at how high Kvaerner might be preprared to go to acquire Trafaigar: certainly it won't want to be too timid after the loss of face over Amec. Bets valuing the whole company, including the preference stock, as high as £1 billion already were being thrown around last night; and that is before a formal approach has been made.

#### **Cautious Barclays**

ARTIN Taylor's leader-ship capacity as chief executive of Barclays has yet to be tested in a crisis this decade. But he does have a creative way of thinking about the way which Barclays does business which should serve it in good stead.

Although operating profits are down, largely due to prob-lems in France and other businesses it hopes to dispose of, the before tax profits are better at £2.1 billion because of lower provisions. Mr Taylor's objective is to smooth the cycle and reduce risk, both admirable goals. Partly he is doing this by re-thinking what the business does and the in-

Plainly, BZW and asset management is a key area and profits in this division were peculiarly healthy when compared to competitors such as HSBC which reported 24-hours earlier. Just how cautious Barsised by the relatively modest

### Kvaerner sees Trafalgar Gas supply free-for-all as global launch-pad

Analysts say HongKong Land holds key, while shares rise to nine-month high in expectation of an offer, writes Tony May

terday had a bid ap-proach from Kvaerner. the Norwegian conglomerate which narrowly failed to buy the Amee construction group in December.

Trafalgar, the struggling engineering and construction group best known for its Cunard cruise ships, including the QE2, announced that Kyaerner had express interest in making a bid but only with the recommendation of the board".

The statement came after a welter of stock market speculation pushed Trafalgar's share price up to a six-month high. Analysts said Kvaerner may have to pay more than

A Trafalgar spokesman said he expected Kyaerner to make a formal offer soon. The Norwegian group confirmed that it was pursuing talks with a view to "exploiting a business which has cost it a lion in 1995.

RAFALGAR House yes | business opportunities". and had not bought any shares. The key to the bid is held by HongKong Land which has a 26 per cent stake. Last night it said it would be guided by the advice of the Trafalgar board.

Confirmation of the apdinary shares up 8p to a nine month high of 47p, with 12 million shares changing hands. The day ended with the group's ordinary shares valued at nearly £500 million. and the preference shares

Some analysts said Trafal-gar could be worth more than 60p a share, valuing it at £640 million. They atressed that the level of the bid would be more or less fixed by how much HongKong Land was prepared to take for its stake.

lot of money. SGST Securities analyst Zafar Khan said: They were looking for a vehicle. They found one with flat tyres and a blown up

Analysts said the prize for Kvaerner was Trafalgar's contracting and engineering units, John Brown Engineer & Constructors, and Davy International.

It is doubtful whether Kyserner would want Conard or Trafalgar's UK commercial property, but it does want to develop its businesses beyond northern Europe. Trafalgar House would take it to the US and the Far East, and add gas

In December, Trafalgar reported a pre-tax loss of \$321 million for the year to September 30. The results cast a shadow over Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief execu-tive, brought in from Hong-Kong Land in August 1994 to reorganise the company. In contrast, Kvaerner — which has interests in shipbuilding

## delayed by one month

Geoffrey Bibbs

HE planned introduc tion of open competi-tion into the supply of domestic gas in the south-west of England has been delayed for a month to process licence applications and test computer systems. Aspiring suppliers have for some time been court-ing the 500,000 consumers in Devon, Cornwall and erset with a wide range of incentives in the hope of

away from British Gas when the pliot project gets Opening up of the market had been expected to begin on April 1. But Energy Minister Tim Eggar said yester day that on the recommendation of Ofgas, the gas industry watchdog, the move would not take place

until April 29. He said the four-week delay would allow time for the thorough processing of licence applications and would ensure that administrative and computer sys-

ems were ready. "It is a complex procedure, and we need to get it as right as possible before 'going live' with consumers. News of the deferral came

is yet another would-be supplier has showed its band in a bustling market where existing rivals include SwebGas, Amerada Hess, Total and a consortium made up of Calor and British Fuels, the coal, oil

and gas supplier estab-lished late last year in a management buyout from British Coal, said it would be offering consumers nnual savings of up to £200 and a package that includes no standing charges. It is also dangling the carrot of £150 off the cost of a holiday for those who sign up within the next four

British Gas, which ha deliberately withheld an-nouncing its own tariff proposals until it sees what competitors are offering in terms of price and service, said yesterday that it would

promising savings of up to 20 per cent on existing gas bills, with Calortex ticipating the delay in the start-up date — guaranteeing recently that its pro jected savings would be backdated to the beginning

sumers' Council.

of April Competition in the domestic market will be extended next year from the three western counties to include a further 1.5 million homes in the south east of England before em said yesterday that it would bracing the whole of the have been ready for an country in 1998.

#### AVING failed to board

emerged as a possible white spending money than throw-knight for Trafalgar House's ing good money after bad.

#### Ulster plane jobs fear after Bombardier drops Fokker bid

Ctaire Trevena in Toronto

P to 1,500 workers at Northern Ireland's Short Brothers could be laid off following the decision by the Canadian firm. Bombardier. not to bid for the Dutch air plane manufacturer, Fokker. A sixth of the Shorts workforce constructs wings for the F70 and F100 series. And while Bombardier, Shorts parent company, hopes the programme to build those planes can continue it has given notice of the lay-offs.

Fokker programme can contime for some time," said Bombardier company spokes-man Michel Lord. "We have orders for aircraft and if they can continue delivering air-craft we can continue produc-Bombardier said if demand

for those stops, there will be TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9750 France 7.42 Austria 15.10 Hong Kong 11.72 India 55.27 Denmark 8.41 Finland 6.87

ible relocation of some of the employees. Last night Shorts simply said it was maintaining contact with Fokker's administrator. Until recently it looked as

redundancies and the pos-

though Bombardier would be fighting the South Korean company Samsung Corp for Fokker. As Dutch industrialists called for fresh state loans and domestic banking support, Fokker last night in-sisted it could still go it alone as a profitable concern. The Canadian company, an-

nouncing its last-minute pull out, said the prospect of buying Fokker was too risky.

It had nothing to do with government support, that was not an issue," said Mr Lord. We did an evaluation of the company, its assets opera tions and programmes and found that it was too risky." He said Bombardier's deci-sion was final.

Maita 0.54 Netherlands 2.4400 New Zealand 2.25

Spain 182.25 Sweden 10.26 Switzerland 1.755

#### Errors led to £825,000 DTI loan for failed software firm

Geoffrey Gibbs

- ⊈i

CERIOUS mistakes were Omade in the handling of (125,00) of government loans to a failed computer software company, an DTI investigation has concluded.

The loans were made under the Government's Regional Selective Assistance scheme to Rom Data Corporation, a Falmouth-based company that collapsed into liquidation in December 1994. Events surrounding the the loans.

company's failure are being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and the DTI admitted yesterday that the ex-tent to which it might be able to recover any of the money

was unclear. The internal report is particularly critical of the way officials raised no objection to businessman Kenneth businessman Holmes, former chairman of the South West Industrial Development Board, accepting an invitation to join the Rom-Data board after advising on

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#### BSkyB shares soar as French | Teenagers who work while stakeholder plans demerger

Paul Murphy

SPECULATION that an-other founder of satellite television group BSkyB might be looking to sell its share holding raged again yeste day as Chargeurs, the French conglomerate, announced it was splitting in two.

stock market at reports that Chargeurs was about to issue a statement, Shares in BSkyB surged to 420p at one stage — up 27p — with Japanese elec-tronics and media group Sony seen as a likely buyer for the French company's 17 per cent

nolding Later Chargeurs said it would be demerging its televi-sion, cinema and newspaper interests into a new company
— named Pathe after a 19th
century French film pioneer. The rump of the group's interests, spreading from textiles to transport, will be retained by Chargeurs.

of its businesses. Shares in BSkyB finally The 17 per cent stake in settled at 396%p. up 5%p, but BSkyB will be held within rumours that a disposal of the French holding was being planned refused to die down.

last summer, when British conglomerate Pearson, which owns the Financial Times and vestment bank, cut its stake from more than 10 per cent to just under 5 per cent through a placing with institutional

tions yesterday that Pearson might be considering selling the rest of its shares. The other major investors in the satellite TV venture are poration, with 40 per cent, and Granada. with just unde 11 per cent. BSkyB itself had no comment on the matter.

The move by Chargeurs represents the first major denerzer in French corporate history. Mirroring the fash-ion in Britain, with Hanson's move to split into four and Thorn EMI's plans to offload its music and entertainments business, Chargeurs said it wanted to improve the focus

PAPER Pathe, alongside a cinema chain spanning France and Holland, and also a 12 per Media specialists have been cent stake in the French wanting for such a move since i newspaper. Libération.

#### studying fare worse at exams against two and a half. Th

Sarah Ryle

HE rising number of teen agers supplementing pock t money with part-time work is damaging exam results, ac cording to a report published yesterday.
A study of 16- to 18-year-olds found that teenagers

working between six and nine hours a week, the average number, did 25 per cent les well than their non-working peers, gaining an average two O-level or CSE Grade 1 passes

KipperWilliams

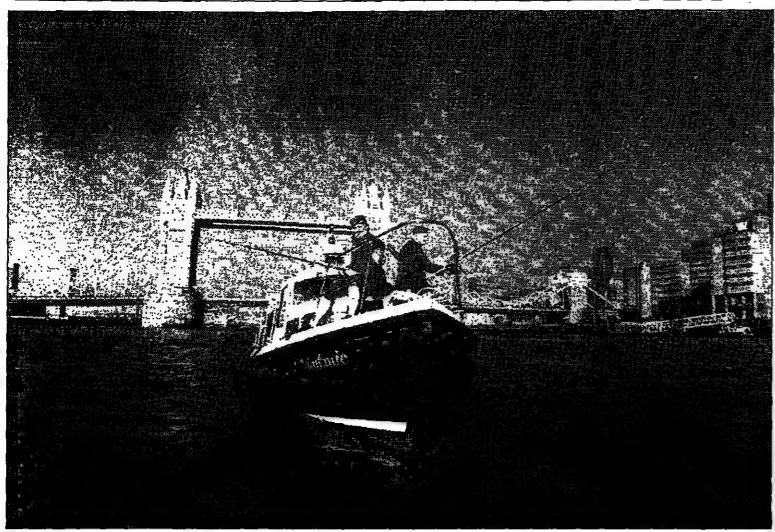
research was published by the Institute for Fiscal Studes, an economic think-tank. The proportion of 16- to 18 tion managing part-time jobs rose to 59 per cent in 1988-91 compared to 40 per cent in The authors found, however, that part-time work did not affect wage levels later on in life. They used the

Study (NCDS) which tracked the progress of 4,000 people born in 1958 at 16, 23 and 33. There was also little evidence to suggest that family wealth put financial pressure on children to go out to work while still at school. Using data from the annual Family Expenditure Survey, the study showed that the children of unemployed parents were less likely to work parttime while at school than

National Child Developmen

other children.

Part-time jobs could bring advantages in terms of work experience, the authors Earning and Learning, Fiscal Ridgmount Street, London



Clear blue . . . Thames Water yesterday received an award for its seven-year programme to clean up the River Thames, now the world's cleanes

chairman of the Social Affairs

Committee — strongly backed up by the GMB general union

— mobilised opposition to the Commission's proposed amendment. By getting the Christian Democratic Euro-

pean People's Party on board, Mr Hughes and the unions en-

for a resolution calling on the Commission not to under-

mine the 1977 legislation

Flynn feil on his sword.

Faced with this onslaught, Mr

Unice, the European em-ployers' federation, which had pressed for the change,

lacy of the British govern-ment's assertion that in the

social field the argument in

Europe is going its way". A Commission official biames

the British government's ne-gotiating tactics for alienat-

### **Get Britain on the other** side to win in Brussels

Workface/UK trade unions find way to gain support on the European stage. Julie Wolf and Seumas Milne report

NE fail-safe way to win cuts in wages and benefits or redundancy when their jobs Brussels is to make sure the British government is on the other side. This month's decision by the European Commission to scrap plans — which would have watered down worker protec tion when jobs are contracted out — is a prime example. It also shows how British trade unions are lighting, and often winning, domestic scraps on the European stage.

The focus of the controversy was the bureaucratic-sounding 1977 EU Acquired Rights Directive, which guarantees that workers keep the same wages and conditions when they are transferred to a new employer. It also requires employers to deal with worker representatives during transfers, bolstering the position of trade unions.

successfully used by unions to challenge the British government's attempts to drive down costs in the public sector by contracting-out and market-testing. And the sink the plan.
courts in both Britain and EU The job was made immeahave upheld compensation surably easier by the British the British government's isolated posiers forced to choose between tion in the EU on social ing potential support.

issues. Given its repeated efforts to block adoption of EU labour legislation and the opt-out from the Maastricht Treaty's social chapter, other Ell countries are reluctant to offer Britain any favours. The Trades Union Con-

gress, working through the European TUC, lobbied extenwere privatised.
The British government has been manoeuvering to get sively against the Commis-sion's proposed change. The campaign won support not just from the TUC's socialist the European legislation changed. Initially, it found al-lies among other EU governallies, but also Christian ments — and even within the Commission — to exempt cer-Democratic politicians. At the European Parliatain types of contracting-out from Tupe protection. ment, Stephen Hughes, Labour MEP for Durham and

This support reflected concern, especially in France and Germany, that the European Court of Justice was interpreting the legislation too broadly. In a surprise ruling in April 1994, the court said Tupe applied to contracted-out services even if just one worker is involved.

OCIAL Affairs Commis-Sioner Padraig Flynn's response was to propose restricting Tupe to the trans-Known in Britain as Tupe fer of "an economic entity Transfer of Undertakings that retains its identity". This Protection of Employment) would have meant, for exam-— the legislation has been ple, that workers transferred was furious, while John successfully used by unions to challenge the British goving machinery would not have tary, said it "exposed the falbeen covered, ignoring warm words from the Commission British unions got to work to

Life growth makes insurer GA hopeful

reported a pare increase in profit from its insurance operations. Pre-tax profits rose by 11 per cent to \$559 million, but only because of higher gains on the sale of investments. The group is proposing a 7 per cent increase in the dividend and chief executive Bob Scott was confident about 1996, partly because of the growing life insurance operations.

GA has just acquired Provident Murual to expand its pendence activities. Lest year, the group's life business earned.

sions activities. Last year, the group's life business earned premiums of just £1.5 billion, compared with £4.4 billion in general insurance. The UK remained the only territory to record a profit on insurance underwriting. — Roger Cowe

#### Shotts workers fight on

WORKERS at the Cummins Engine Company plant at Shotts,
Lanarkshire, yesterday unanimonaly rejected closure plans
which threaten 700 jobs. They promised a "wide-ranging campaign" uniting Scottish politicisms and trade unionists pledged to
reverse the closure decision amounced a week ago. The workers'
trance sate them on course for conflict with their American stance sets them on course for conflict with their American employers who want to close Shotts as part of plans to slim their

international 27,000 workforce by 2,000.

The Indiana-based company employs 5,000 in Britain. A mass meeting at the 40-year-old plant condemned the company's "lack of consultation and consideration" and its failure to explore alternatives to closure. Workers called on the engineering union AREU, which has 500 members at Shotts, to ballot on industrial

#### Telegraph profits hit

THE Telegraph, the national newspaper group headed by Conrad Black, has been hit hard by rising newsprint costs and the price/ circulation war. Profits for 1986 fell by almost £10 million to £35.5 million. But Mr Black was optimistic about the future after a very difficult year. He said: "1995 was a year of unrelanting challenge for the Telegraph. But at the end of it, the company

emerged fitter and stronger."

The company said newsprint prices and magazine paper costs in the last quarter of 1995 were 50 per cent higher than a year hefore. Overall, 1995 newsprint costs rose £12 million. The rises came as newspapers remained locked in a price war unleashed by Rupert Murdoch's News International titles in 1993. However, the Daily Telegraph increased its cover price by 10p last year to its

#### Taxman raids German bank

COMMERZBANK'S Frankfurt beadquarters and branches in three other cities were raided yesterday by tax authorities look-ing for evidence that the bank helped customers shift funds to avoid paying taxes. Rainer Schilling, chlef prosecutor for the

Frankfur prosecutor's office, said that transfers to Lurembourg. Gibraltar and Switzerland are the subject of the investigation.

More than 300 investigators took part in the surprise raid, which started at sam and continued throughout the day. "We don't think any of our employees are guilty," said Dennis Philibs, a Commerzbank spokesman. "If a client wants to shift money, we don't ask them if they've reported it to tax authorities. It's up to

#### 400 meat jobs to go

AROUND 400 Harris meat workers are expected to lose their jobs AROUND 400 Harris mest workers are expected to lose their jobs when one of the country's largest producers of bacon and sausages closes a 230-year-old factory at Ipswich, Suffolk, Dairy group Unigate has agreed in principle to buy the entire Harris operation, but this will not save the Ipswich factory. Negotiations on redundancies are taking place with unions.

The closure follows a general decline in the popularity of mest in recent years — fuelled partly by concerns about health. Pig farmers have also complained about rival producers in other European countries receiving unfair substities from their

#### Sabena chief appointed

SWISSAIR yesterday consolidated its control over Sahena when a at Belgium's troubled national carrier. Paul Reutilinger, who moves from Swissair to take the helm at Sabena, said he was ready to take on competition from Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airlines, which is considering taking a controlling stake in Euro Belgian Airlines, a small operator that runs low-cost

lights. His appointment followed the resignation of Pierre Godfroid as chief executive and chairman. A Belgian Christian Democrat, Jan Huyghebaert, was named as board chairman. The changes are aimed at breaking the deadlock between Sabena management and trade unions over cost-cutting moves demanded by Swissair. Sabena also announced that net losses narrowed to £11.8 million last year from £37.2 million in 1984. — Julie Wolf in Brussels

#### \$10.8bn cable deal

THE US West Media Group is buying Continental Cablevision in a \$10.8 billion deal. The takeover will make US West the third largest cable operator after Tele-Communications inc and Time Warner and will give it 4.7 million cable subscribers. The acquisition is the largest in the cable industry since the telecommunications bill passed earlier this month and analysts believe it could start a wave of mergers.

One US analyst said it was in line with recent cable deals with US West paying around \$2,300 per subscriber. US West is paying \$5.3 billion in stock and cash and assuming another \$5.5 billion in debt and other obligations. US West has 500,000 cable TV subscrib ers and has a 25 per cent interest in Time Warner Enterlainment. which has cable systems. Home Box Office and Warner Brothers

### Strong profits for building societies augur rate cuts

Teresa Hunter and

EVERAL top 20 building societies are poised to follow the Nationwide and cut 0.5 per cent off their borrowing rates, following a clutch of financial results showing strong profits growth despite weak housing market

Nationwide, Britain's second largest building soci-ety, last week announced plans to slash the cost of borrowing to a 30-year low of 6.99 The defensive move was

taken as part of Nationwide's struggie to remain a customer-owned mutual organisation, rather than be forced to follow the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester and convert to being a pub-

The Skipton Building Society, which yesterday reported a 56 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £27 million last year said it would announce a drop in its mortgage rate within

even days. The Coventry, which in-

last year, said it will shortly announce a membership giveaway honus scheme - probably by reducing the cost of

an 8 per cent rise in profits to £28 million, indicated it would wait for rates to settle

Britain's fifth biggest building society set the ball rolling £50 million package of benefits to members, including lower mortgage rates. It reported a 10 per cent in-crease in profits to £111.8

million.
UBS building society analyst Rob Thomas warned: These results show that a number of medium-sized building societies have a solid base from which to begin cut-

borrowing.
The Chelses, which posted

before falling into line.
The Bradford & Bingley.

ting margins in favour of cus-tomers, which will hit the hanks hard if they are forced

But the think-tank Demos urged that building society members should be allowed to allocate a tenth of their "con-version" windfalls to a com-

by 6 per cent to £476 million | would benefit housing pro-last year, said it will shortly | jects and charitable schemes. David Shutt, author of a report published today, said the scheme would be in tune with the original aims of the former mutuals, which could maintain their role by liter-

ally "building society". The windfalls generated by the conversion of the Wool-wich, National & Provincial. Halifax and Alliance & Leicester to public companies would amount to £15 billion, he said. The proposed fund could be as much as \$2

billion. societies to become plcs would continue and it made sense for a movement which was created for the good of its community to invite mem-bers to make a return contri-

John Caine, director of cor-porate affairs at the Alliance & Leicester, dismissed the proposals.

He said that Demos was act-

ing too late and Alliance members will choose to take all of their windfall, adding, "people love mutuality, but not as much as a cheque for

### Wimpey bets heavily on house building revival

#### Outlook

Tony May

housing market is poised to recover. For the past six years the building industry has intoned that "this could be the year the industry bounces back".

One man, Joe Dwyer, chairman of Wimpey, has placed a huge bet on things coming right in 1996. He has doubled his group's ex-posure to housebuilding, by swapping his construc-tion business for Tarmac's housebuilding division in a

the industry and enjoy a gold-plated future as Brit-Failure could lead to a goldplated corporate exit.

After that, it should be in a position to grind out the fectively — especially as it has less than three years' worth of land on its books and will be much the big-gest land buyer in the UK.

The group will be keen to balance its cash inflow from bouse sales against the huge expenditure needed for the land bank. Historically, it has done well. In its 110-year history it has only asked the City for cash once. What trou-bles the Square Mile is that

1500 million deal.

If he is right, he will become a figure of legend in

The company will now be the UK's biggest ever housebuilder. It will be twice ratt and Beaser - and will eclipse Sir Lawrie Barratt's Barratt Developments of the late 1970s and Bric Pountain's Tarmac of 1985. It will build more than 14.000 homes across the world and have almost 10 per cent of the UK market.

The group is expected to sack 100, or maybe 200 staff, in the next 18 months. It has taken on 2,000 ex-Tarmac employees and ad-justment is inevitable.

But Wimpey needs a recovery in housing demand. It also needs to con-vince doubters in the City that cash call, for £104 million, came only last June and the man asking for the Share price 134p -2p

773.0 914.5

that it has the quality of money was Mr Dwyer. Nat-management to handle urally, Wimpey will not be such a massive business ef-drawn on any plans it might have to raise cash. There is little pressure on the balance sheet, but over the past year group debt leaped from £34.5 million to £165 million, giving a debt-equity ratio of 33 per

cant, up from 7 per cent. David Kilbourn, an analyst at Panmure Gordon & match between the Tarmac and Wimpey. businesses, and questioned Wimpey's ability to fund the large-scale land acquisitions. So what does Mr Dwyer

say? A year ago he said house sales for the first two months of 1995 were down. but he expected sales to pick up in the second half of the year. Yesterday he looked back at a year in which operating profits from homes fell from £43.1 million to £24.9 million. Not much of a return on £408.8 million of assets employed.

He explained that the Wimpey Homes division had struggled in the face of a lack of price inflation. fierce competitiveness, discounting and reduced com-

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Walt Barrier Br.

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pletions and margins.
This year Mr Dwyer aims to complete between 12,000 and 13,000 private development homes and around 1,300 units of social hous-ing in the UK, as well as more than 1,500 homes in the US and sales of around 600 plots in Australia.
But the outlook? "The

sarly results for January and February from all our businesses give us cautious optimism for the rest of the year." He expects low infla-tion, low and "probably" falling interest rates and steady economic growth. He had better be right.

#### Creditors throw Vulkan a cash lifeline

HE German government yesterday announced limited remedial treatment for ailing shipbuilding group Bremer Vulkan, despite sig-nals that the group's fliness may be terminal.

may be terminal.

Following talks with com-pany management and local politicians, the federal eco-nomics minister, Gunther Rexrodt, said that Vulkan's creditors had come up with a fresh infusion of funds for the debt-ridden glant, enough to seep operations going for two

"The government can't guarantee it, but it looks like we've won a bit of time for structural and conceptual men government.

changes at Vulkan," Mr Rexrodt said in Bremen's city at the Bremen docks were men's River Weser". structural and conceptual changes at Vulkan," Mr Rex-

filed for protection from its creditors, while an independent audit made public on Monday found that the firm's former management had mis-used more than £320 million in subsidies that were earmarked for two yards in east Germany.

Mr Rezrodt said the two
yards, confronted by a liquidity crisis that must be

averted, were to be separated

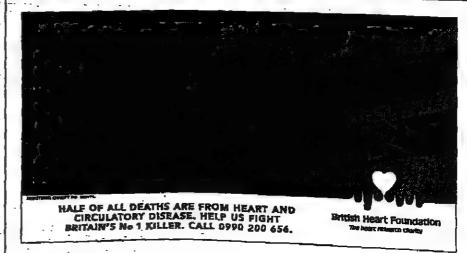
hall Last week, Germany's blggest shipbuilding firm declared itself insolvent and The last few days of hectic negotiations over Vulkan's fate with 23,000 jobs at stake, had resulted, according to local business sources, in agree-ment to break up the group. let parts go bankrupt and seek to revive what could be salvaged. Mr Rezrodt said he hoped

to see a new company rise from the ashes, possibly "in partnership" with other un-

from the parent group to prevent further abuses.

Vulkan's banks have agreed to plough in another 536 million over the next eight weeks, said Ulrich Nolle, deputy head of the Bremen government.

Anytous Valkan based of the Bremen government.



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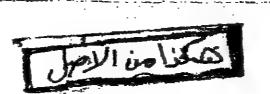
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### **Dove favourite to** pass Aintree test

Ken Oliver

EXTRA DOVE, who failed by a short head to Sunley Bay at Newbury earlier this month when bidding for his eighth consecutive victory, is 9-2 favourite with Hill's for Saturday's Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster.

Simon Earle, in his first full season as a trainer, has done really well with the nine-year-old, who has progressed up the handicap ratings with his seven wins.

Extra Dove, who failed by a short had a ship books. David, 23, is being groomed for the apprentice title, while the reigning champion jockey Frankie Dettori is the yard's number one, with Richard Hughes acting as his back-up.

Patrick, who was 21 on Monday, is rated as good as his brother by many experts and has ridden 63 winners, in cluding the last two Portland Handicaps on Hello Mister.

While sponsors are pulling Miss Optimist (2.50) holds a last wetherby where the properties of the which we are extremely grateful."

Philip Mitchell, general manager of Juddmonte farms, said: "We have always had an excellent relationship with York and are very pleased to continue for one more year, for which we are extremely grateful."

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Philip Mitchell, general manager of Juddmonte farms, and the proving farms, and the proving farms, and the proving

seven wins. Earle has not ruled out a

seven wins.

Earle has not ruled out a tilt at Aintree, but only if Dextra Dove does well on Saturday, explaining: "This is the big test for him. It will tell us whether he is good enough to strong the support for the whether he is good enough to strong the support for day, explaining: "This is the big test for him. It will tell us whether he is good enough to have a tilt at the National."

Let at the National.

Stakes at York.

The Manual Abdulia, yesteray defined in the property of the cold ploughed through the mud at Hereford earlier this month to beat Miss Brecknell. have a tilt at the National.
"I could not be more

pleased with him. He is in tremendous form and that Newbury run was his first for nearly three months. He has come on really well since." David Loder, the Newmar-

Stakes at York.

John Smith, manager and clerk of the course at York, said: "Our contract with Juddmonte Farms, as was announced last year, officially ended after the running of the 1995 race. However, whilst we continue our search for a new provice hurdle.

prentice Patrick McCabe to | sponsor. Juddmonte Farms join his high-powered jockey has very generously agreed to continue for one more year,

No problems are antici-pated at Wetherby where Miss Optimist (2.50) holds a first rate chance in the Hoechst Panacur Novice



Rough and tumble . . . Oxford's Cope (foreground) comes out ahead of Cambridge's Harding in yesterday's 98th University hockey match at Reading. The Dark Blues won 4-1, their sixth successive victory in the fixture photograph: Frank Baron have Botha disqualified.

Boxing

### Schulz camp to sue IBF

XEL SCHULZ's manager is to sue the International Boxing Federation over its decision to deny the German an immediate rematch with Frans Botha. The South African heavyweight tested positive for steroids after defeating Schulz in a title bout in December.

Wilfried Sauerland said he would file suit in New Jersey and declared: "My lawyers expect the IBF to be knocked out in court in

the first round." On Saturday the IBF, fin-ing Botha £33,000, decided that he could keep his crown but ordered him to give Schulz a rematch within 180 days. The winner was then to fight Michael Moorer.

On Monday, however, the IBF said an agreement bound the December winner to fight Moorer by June 9. It ruled that Botha, as champion, must fight the American first, leading

## Netherby with guide to recent form

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Ricercarile 2md, Gol.
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UNICLE KERNYTH Promisers until colpaced from 2 out, 19 2md of 7 fieldhers to Senie Concerto in novice event (Kelso 2mds, St).
UNICLE KERNYTHER TREATMEN White With, effort 5 out, challenged last until outpected close home, 11 2md of 18 tinshers to Alex Whytes (Warnet 2mds, Gd).

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5 CLARABEL (43) J Charles 5-10-7	
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2-15 HENDIETTA HOWARD (54) Mrs D Hame 6-10-7	
16 SEP-03 MERRY MOGLE (39) E Oven 6-10-7	
17 PB MILLEWELL (36) Mrs S Bramall 7-10-7	
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3,20 HELBSLEY HOVICE HANDHCAP CHASE 2m D4,500 TOP FORM TUPS: Cuitheaux Cloud 8, Lord Dornet 7

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4 0073- SHEEMORK (95) 3 Bettell 9-0

5 3663- SHOW FALCON (165) M Bed 9-0

6 41200- TWO SCOKE (1146) M INCORDANCE 9-0

7 (6-723) YEGHAN GLIVER (16) 8 McMahod 9-0

6 FARTY HOBIRANDS (280) 5 Militare 3-0

9 6 SPERIT OF SPORT (12) A Noncombre 8-9

10 60 WESTERM SONIATA (21) Lord Hurbingdon 8-9

10 50 WESTERM SONIATA (21) Lord Hurbingdon 8-9

10 FORM TITPS BOTH MIGHT 4, Sonre Falcon 7, Law Dancer 5

Bettlem 1-2 Law Barcel, 4-1 Store Falcon 9-2 Selft Kright, 5-1 Western

| O TAURUS HARDICAP 71 CE,378
| 06400-0 ENTLON (21) (D) C BIRBIN 5-10-0
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) C Parker 4-9-7
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) C Parker 4-9-7
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) C PARKER 5-6-6
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) C PARKER 5-6-6
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (D) R GLOSS 4-9-0
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (D) R GLOSS 4-9-0
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (C) (D) A HARTISO 5-6-13
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (CD) A SHINEMO 5-6-13
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (CD) A SHINEMOLS 5-13
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLLA (137) (CD) A SHINEMOLS 5-13
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLS (137) (CD) A SHINEMOLS 5-9
| SCOLUS SHINEMOLS 5-9
| SCOLUS

TOP FORM: 18704 digram may in marchine process. 1992 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Intimes, 6-1 Etton Ledger, 13-2 Settings, 13-2 Joseph Boy, 4-1 Chadleigh Labo, 9-2 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Intimes, 6-1 Etton Ledger, 13-2 Settings, 13-2 April 1992 Settings, 13-2 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Intimes, 6-1 Etton Ledger, 13-2 Settings, 13-2 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Intimes, 6-1 Etton Ledger, 13-2 Settings, 13-2 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Intimes, 6-1 Etton Ledger, 13-2 Nordan Reader, 11-2 Nordan Reader,

TOP FORM TIPS: Besset Boy 3, Hordan Raider 7, Chadleigh Lane 8

Wolverhampton (All-weather Flat)

FORM GENIDE - CURENITIAN CHALLENGES Effort 2 out, soon ridden, never able to the leage, 4th of 5, bis
over 21, to Palacespage King (Kalso 2m. Sft)
LORD DORGETY Let approaching last, packed out, or Pumberley Place 28. 7 ran (Asto) 2m. Go-Sit).
CAITHREESS CLOUD; Chased winner from 3 out, so impression, 2nd of 4, bin 81, to Just Frankle (Avr 2m.
BOD.

3.50 HORTHERN ELECTRIC CHARITY HOWIGE HURBLE 2nd C2,508				
1	3-5F1 CURLEMIAN RHAPSODY (14) T Essenty 8-13-4			
2	00 AUCAT (20) J Carts 5-11-4			
	ME BARBANOJA (12) J FitzGoraki 5-11-4			
4	0 RAYARD'S BRIG (54) P Cheesbrough 6-11-4			
5	CELESTIAL KEY M Johnston 6-17-4			
- 6	0º CORSTON JOKER (48) L Lungo 5-11-4			
7	0 GROSVENOR (11) F Murphy 5-11-4 P Corbony			
	HAM MYCOOS M Hammond 5-11-4			
9	0-00 KH LBALLY BOY (42) J Howard Johnson 6-11-4 J F Tibby			
10	Museum D Nichalls 5-11-4			
11	3-080 CYCR STATED (35) F Checkbrough 6-11-4			
12	OF SCOTTON GREEN (27) T Easterby 5-11-4 Collegion			
13	00 Silly Money (14) T Easterby 5-11-4			
14	4233-00 THURSDAY MIGHT (25) J FiziGerald 5-11-4 E Callegian (6)			
15	D WESTERN CENERAL (47) Lise Whiteger 5-11-4			
16	R WHAT A DIFFERENCE (195) W RIW 7-11-4 B Gration (7)			
17	P-02243 WHATDIDYDUSAY (15) B Bousfield 8-11-4P Million			
18	PPO WR.D BROOK (20) Mrs \$ Branati 6-11-4			
19	6- DUNHAM DELIGHT (516) J Hedens 7-10-13 S Taylor (7)			
20	D RHCHARTED COTTAGE (87) M Hammond 4-10-8 Poster			
21	D NENOO WHO (37) D Nicholson 4-10-8			
22	00 NR CHRISTE (12) Mes L Scidel 4-10-5			
	OUR ROBERT J Friz Gerald 4-10-8			
24	65 Rightslieu (12) P Webber 4-19-8			
25	LATCH KEY LADY R Woodhouse 4-10-3			
TOP FORM TIPS: Conshripe Rhappady S, Barbaraja 7, Be Brave S				
BetSings 11-6 Colombia Key, 6-1 Combines Phageody, 5-1 Whathdrowney, Barbaroja, 10-1 Hers N Egge.				
10-1 Re Brave 24 remotes				

FORM GRIDE - C'Uniternant Retainment de la comment de la better latt, richen clear, le Bassannelly by R. 13 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly by R. 13 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly by R. 13 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly by R. 14 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly by R. 14 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly by R. 14 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. Gd. Bassannelly Sm. 14 ran (Sedgefeld Sm. 14 ran 4.20 EAST KEEPINCK HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f 1 10yth \$4,500

4.50 askham bryan handicap fiundle  $\sim$  Class

Bettings 9-2 Shortnota, 5-1 Peggy Spencer, 11-2 Loregoumillous, 6-1 Cretan Grit, 7-1 White Sorres, 6-1 Prio Ruge Lad. 9-1 Eversat.

TOP FORSE TIPS: Mister Fire Byes 6, Kindwyn 7, Cheimenns Cholon 6
Bettings 7-2 Chemagne Chonce, 4-1 Uister Fire Eyes, 9-2 Kindwyn, 5-1 Field Of Vision, South Eastern Fre
11-2 Brand Selection, 5-1 Maple Bay.

9 runner

allions 7. Pine Hidee Lud 8

2011, Gd) CRECUS LIMIE Managers, aserie 34 to treat Courser & (Newcastle Zm, good to solf).

3.40 ERETISH GAS TEAMSCO HANDICAP 1:0 11 79yel ES,530 

3 23-2533 SOUTH EASTERN FRED (7) (CD) # Collegation 5-4-5
4 43300- CASTEL ROSSELO (89) R Harris 6-9-4
5 11122 MARILE RAY (22) (CD) (EP-) R Debry 7-9-2
7 12902- GRAND SELECTION (168) (C) M Bell 4-9-2
7 12902- GRAND SELECTION (168) (C) M Bell 4-9-2
8 03-0114 FREED OF PASSON (2) (CD) \$ J. Jackson 6-8-9
9 006-331 KIRTWYN (20) (CD) C Clear 6-8-8

2000- Manifeless (115) (00) D Crigitine 9-0
3001-3 GENERAL EQUATION (21) J Baking 8-12
9-5005 RED ACUREL (20) (65) D Berry 8-12
0-6053 DHES-C (14) R Hedrestead 8-7
40-64 ELFIN (URDIN (11) J Harris 8-7
000 High-Lapi Fawl (1) B V Librar 8-7
5-232 RASUND STREET (7) P Eress 8-7

072230-0 KSTA (14) (C) J L ferms 7-5-13 4265:-0 LOYESCAPE (42) B Liseebyn 5-0-3 020130 MAZELA (6) (C) (Sie en) (SP) A Sheeter 4 005-612 MORLE CANONIES (9) S Sowing 4-3-1

8 505/5- PEDALTOTHEREETAL (126) P Mechell 4-8-7
9 500- ORSERMAY LADY (156) Mas A Embricos 4-8-5
10 50-000 SAMEMAR CAY (129) Feligine 4-7-10
11 65-0520 LADY (ELZABETH (11) & Corriogham-Brown 4-7-10

TOP FORM TIPE: Nazime 8, Greek Hight Out 7, Hebie Cam Betting: 11-4 Greek Night Out. 3-1 Nobie Camere, 7-2 Fedalt: 12-1 Buckley Brys. 25-1 Late.

aunton	runners	and	riders

١.	5.00 Robins Pride	409 PH- BELLIMAN (1020) P Charmon 11-11-12 [7] 409 PH- BELLIMAN (1020) P Charmon 11-11-12 [7] 400 PDDD: COMPTRICTION RING (1215) Mrs. J Hawkins 10-11-12 [8] 400 PDDD: COMPTRICTION RING (1215) Mrs. J Hawkins 10-11-12 [8]
- 1		400 Pil- BELLMAN (1029) P Chamings 11-11-12
-	© Sam HISPECTION. ★ Desertes Malakars, Goings Good to soft  2.00 PHYSIORSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m. 11 £1,964  104 20-2PP SOVERMENN WICHE (13) (D) M Popt 8-12-0 D Barrooms (7) ★  104 11-5505 B. SAMBORO (25) H Manners 8-1-0 Br A Whello (7)	411 DPFECE FINAL OPTION (544) G Fyrm 2-11-12 [7] 412 OPPPRO JUST BALLYTOO (355) Mrs FLampard 9-11-12 R Neutral (7) 412 56/POD- LE GERARD (516) Lee Eories 11-11-12 MDoby (7) 414 DD//FT SPACE BARRIMER (255) Lies P Writin 9-11-12 MB Surface (7) 415 CARLYS CASTLE (272) Mas P Whitin 9-11-7 S Jackson (7)
	103 504PP4 CELCHUS (121) (C) (D) M Pror 12-11-7	TOP FORM TIPS: Charden B, Busneired 7, Cool And Essy 6 Betting 7-2 Mylegs, 4-1 Rusty Bridge, 5-2 Aterhely, 6-1 Bussairob, 6-7 Cool And Essy, 6-1 Charden, 14-1 Just Bellyloo
	107 3525; HAMDEON (84) B Milman 4-10-0 JR Kermangh 108 489-6-00 TRLT TECH FLYSR (13) July 11-10-5 Milas E Josep (7) 108 0039 CAME DILEMBA (56) J Myling 5-10-7	4.00 TAURTON HET HOWICES HURDLE Inn of 110yds 63,035
	110 2955P QUEENS CONTRACTOR (41) C Pophar 6-10-6	SQ2 00-15 AN THERE YOU ARE (102) (87) h Series 7-11-4
	113 50J SAATCHIND (82) J Spearing 4-10-3	205   P. JUST DIMPLE (14) R. Africe 1-1-4
١	116 PIS-COS ALLASTRAKNA (41) birs. J Petes 5-10-1	508 275- MANDALAY (470) J. Old 7-11-4
١	10-1 Coleus 18 research	B11   THE BUIL BLACKBAN O Sherwood 5-11-4
	2.30 HERLADE HOVICET CHASE == 21 C3,022  804 03304P- ADMERALTY WAY (522) R Broberton 10-11-3	314 8 SUMMER HAYEN (13) N Langard 7-10-13
	203 64 CARROT BAY (9) M Ogie 18-11-3 J Freet 204 12-11-3 J Freet 204 12-11-3 Gay Lawis (3) 205 PPPSI-P CHARTER SPRINGS (104) Mag C Horier (0-11-3 A Presign	Bettings 3-1 The Bull Blackman, 4-1 Lord Micklermough, Convent Garden, 5-1 Supreme Flame, 6-1 Ah There You Are, Mandalay, 7-1 Locky Eddie. 14 remarks.
.	206 050-POP DURINGCKE VIEW (89) F Tucker 7-11-3	4.30 SAMBLESTT HOVICES HANDICAP CHARE 2m \$10min 22.927

3.00 CROCOMBE HOVICESP HURDLE 2m 110yda 22,766

п	1-371	SUPERIOR RESK (14) M Pipe 7-11-11
d	40-000	FLYING IIIP (42) R Holleshead 5-11-6
d	004-0	MAJOR NOVA (11) H Street 7-11-5
И	DH2-2	PRINCE NASHA (14) K Cumingham-Brown 6-11-5 G Bradley
ĕ	<u>0:-6</u>	SEA SCAMP (41) D Marry 8-11-5
ĸ	. 500	SOUND FORECAST (12) Mrs. S. Johnson 8-11-6 B Femine (3)
7	6-	SPRING CHOYE JUST (229) C Mestell 5-11-5 Sophie Mitch
		(5)
E	47-400	TRESease (37) H Hersterson 7-11-5
ø	52-2252	YANKE (25) J Old 6-11-6 During
0	06645-0	SAFFRON RIVER (35) W Turser 5-11-0 T C Maryley (
1	FPP	THIRD MISLODY (37) J Multing 10-11-0 5 Curren (3)
2	30-0	VALLEY'S CHOICE (37) 5 Steward 7-11-0 hr L Jefford
3	50	MU-TADE. (11) A Baker 4-10-7
4	PSF-000	HURSH CROSS (34) S Kniggt 4-10-2
p	FOREI TIPS	: Yatani 8, Superior Rick 7, Princy Nacion &

3.3	O MITFORD SLADE HURTER CHASE Amotors 4m 2f 110yds C3,501
401 402	363653 RISTY BRIDGE (16) Mrs 3 Johnson 9-13-1 R Thermion (7) 2035-3 COOL AND EASY (14) (5) J Dutosed 10-13-12 JM Feiton (6) PP(1PP AFTERELLY (33) (50) Mrs 7 White 11-12-5 R White (7) 55' 44-2 BUOMARHOTI (14) Mrs 0 Equips 9-12-5 JM Bettern (7)
404	52F 44-2 (BUCHARROTT (14) Mrs () Buckett (1-12-6

	4.0	TAUNTON 'NET HOYICES' HUMBLE IN 2' 110/Hs CLOSS	
ì	501	10 LUCKY EDDIE (48) (C) P Hobbs 5-11-11	C Manda
	502	00-16 AH THERE YOU ARE (102) (BF) Is Bailey 7-11-4	G Sradley
	504	DO BELLDORAM (13) C Jones 5-11-4	S Curran (4)
	504	5 CUBINERALAND YOUTH (14) Mass C Carge 5-11-4	S Fonton (3)
	505	P JUST DIMPLE (14) R Ainer 5-11-4	Mr P Hundry (A
	206	0 KIRBY MOORSIDE (41) R Baker 5-11-4	
	SOT	1L2-203 LORD MCMURROUGH (14) J Novike 6-11-4	
	506	2/6- MANDALAY (470) J Old 7-11-4	& Upice
J	509	210/1-04 NOTHER (89) G Jones 8-11-4	D (Callegher
١	516	56-3 SUPREME FLAME (48) C Popham 6-11-4	T Dascombe (
	511	THE BUILL BLACKMAN O Sherwood 5-11-4	J & McCarthy
	512	2-6 CONVENT GARDEN (13) (BF) N Henderson 6-10-13	JRK <del>aragb</del>
l	518	042P OATIS ROSE (16) N Sheppard 6-10-13	ii Formii
	514	6 SUMMER HAVEN (12) N Lampard 7-10-13	Guy Lewis (8)
		QGM 71PS: Supreme Flame 8, Lord Hollurrough 7, Lastly Eddin 8	
	Section 1	cs 3-1 The Bull Blackman, 4-1 Lord McMarrowsk, Convent Garden, 5-1 Sut	rreme Flame, 6-1 Ah Thr
		re, Mandalay, 7-1 Lucky Eddie.	14 page
ı			
	4.3	O SAMBLECTT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE 2m 110/ds c2,927	•
	601	83-2211 EARLY DIRINKER (12) (CD) O Sherenod 8-13-0	J & Mathematica
	800	40U152 FEMANCK (13) (C) R Hodges 9-11-2	T Describe (
	805	11-2404 GREEN'S FAIR (13) G Ham 6-10-11	P Solies
	604	11-2404 GREEN'S FAIR (13) G Ham 6-10-11 25-5F28 CASPIAN BELUGA (89) 5 Keight 5-10-10	S Burrough
	806	100000- BRIGADIER SUPRIME (201) P Butler 7-10-6	A P MeCov
	506	5-40056 UNCLE BERT (87) @ McCourt 6-10-6	B. CERturd
	807	00-F25P ABAVARD (01) R Frost 7-10-4	J Front
	405	2-6002 FICHU (75) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0	Powell
	609	PHOS-PP STRATTON FLYER (18) H House 6-10-0	Geny Lene's (3)
	£16	60-6026 SPRING SUMPRISE (17/2) B De Haum 6-10-0	S McKell +
	811	PPIN-PPP MICHIGHT MYSTIC (16) Dr P Prichard P-10-0	P Princhard
	512	(PDP)- WARYLAND BOY (951) IS Keener 8-10-0	L Harvey
	TOP F	CRM TIPS: Groun's Fair B. Kerly Brinker 7, Femalek 6	_
		es 5-2 Green & Few. 11-4 Early Droker, 7-2 Femylck, 8-1 Fichs, 8-1 Caspes	n Reisen 14-1 Uncle Ru
		ga organisticani, i processi y salinesa, are i estatese er i acesse or i oceanes havend	12 mare
ı	7.7		
	5.0	O BLACKDOWN HILLS HANDICAP HURBLE 2m 1f 25,285	
	1	104- TISSISAT (293) J Kirty 7-11-10	G Cinton
	<u> </u>	104 TISSISAT (793) J Kirty 7-11-10 351416 CORREN HILL (48) (0) (SF) R Hodges 9-11-8	T Descende (
	- S	F1-5212 ROBINS PRIDE (12) (D) C Popham 6-11-6	Er J Cullety (7
	ă.	23053- WORLD EXPRESS (352) B Milman 6-11-5	
		\$4067 LAWREWOOD JUNIOR (15) (2) J Spearing 9-11-3	C Mende
ĺ		CO-013 HARVEST VIEW (16) (D) C Brooks 6-11-3	9 Brader
	7	0PO-823 KONO'S QOLD (56) Mrs L Richards 6-11-1	

200F GOME FOR LUNCH (12) Mas H Knight 5-10-12 0-P JASONS FARM (46) W Clay 5-10-12 320-054 JUST BRUCE (12) Mrs E Heath 7-10-12

O-AEOLIAN (298) R Alicop 5-11-4
O-BOUND FOR GOLD (312) B Pips 5-11-4
O-BOUND FOR GOLD (312) B Pips 5-11-4
O-CASHEL GULLY (25) Int's P Bedrein 6-1
O-BARK ORICHARD (12) Int's H Pariod 5-15
BEQUINOX (63) Mrs 41 Jones 5-11-4

#### Nottingham programme

2.15 Love The Sluce 2.45 Ebulliant Equipment

4.15 Pete The Parson

	2.45 Shulfient Equinome 4.15 Pete The Parson 3.15 Mighawi 4.45 Tilisten 5.15 Colife Park	7 D-P JASONS FARIS (46) W Cay 5-10-12 Mr is Santis 8 303-554 JUST SERICE (19) Mr & Heath 7-10-72 D Sentitey 9 DPI MASTER PANGLOSS (42) A Turnell 5-10-12 C Creen (7) vi 10 PPI MORECHIST II (27) M Ppc 5-10-12 C Creen (7) vi 11 40568 MACARA SOURO (19) 6 Presso 5-10-12 C Creey Lyone
	7.30cm RESPECTION. Gaing: Good to safe. * Denotes billature.     1	12
7.	B DASH TO THE PROCES (45) K Morgan 10-72 R Manney (5) T O DOSSES DAR (6) B Proces 10-12 Onry Lycons CO MIDICATUR (37) J Olden (0-12) D Byrne D BYRNE D D BYRNE D BYRNE D D BYRNE D BYR	4. 15 WAYWARD LAD HOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 2m C1,596  7 D102FU HAWAIIAN SAM (12) A Turnel 5-12-0 C Cross (7) 2 D4-3C BIG STRAND (14) (D) (M Ppc 7-11-13 J. Lower 2 32-CUL PETE FUR PARSON (14) (D) J OH 7-11-9 M. A PROpermin 4 127631- PONTOON BRIDGER (83°) & Harveod 9-11-6 M. Reportin 5 67442 AEDEAM (16) (D) (D) (G Eniget 7-19-11 A. Reportin 6 07-P3M STORBERIOR RIM (12) P Debno 3-10-11 T. Disy 7 6-SaCT RACOSELLA (677) Petro 8-10-5 M. Relaxed 8 225-270 SEZLANG AFFAIR (11) M Wilsonson 7-10-4 P. Crowdey (7) 9 MA Part COPPER CABLE (60) C Smd 9-10-0 M. B. Character TOP FORM TIPS: Peto The Person 8, Storming Rom 7, Harveillan Som 6  8 Setting 9-4 Peto The Person 1, 1-4 Sig Strand, 3-2 Pottoon Bridge, 3-1 Haustian Sam, 7-1 Andean, 10-1
ı	2.45 SEE YOU THEN MOVICE HURDLE 2m 41 12,379	Storming Run, 16-1 Nagobelia Uramers

	2 200 100 then active vivints 59 4: 15'24a
1	313-124 EBUILLENT BOUDLANE (11) (BF) N Handerson 5-12-10 M A Fitzgerald
	KING CIRSEACH (119) K Balley 7-11-10 R Deserved
3	DAJRAAN N Twatoo-Daves 7-11-4
Ä	6699-33 DOMUNOS RING (43) O Brennan 7-11-4
6	D IMATOFF (54) C Jackson 6-11-4
-	20/PP1/- LOWAWATHA (1149) Mrs E Heath 8-11-4
7	321/J-0 PHILINARGIOREC (11) J FitzGerald 8-11-4 D Bytte
a a	23 SMIPLE SMON (18) D Nichtson 6-11-4
	3-FP GLERBROOK FORT (39) A J When 7-10-13
10	D-P LADY HIGH SHERIFF (\$25 T Forster 6-10-13
11	P) MISS TUT (12) I Bill 5-10-13
12	50-4U00 BASCALLY (36) Mas L Skidsb 6-10-13
13	CD4 ABUNCER 6423 Miss M Proviend 4-10-7
14	0 FURNIFORAN (25) J Mackie 4-10-2
TOP F	ORM TIPS: Eballiest Equipmes 9, King Girsensh 7, Dornhau Ring 8
Bettle	gs 9-4 Expiritent Equiname 11-4 Depten, 4-1 King Giresech, 8-1 Dominos Ring, Ptelhermonic. 12-1 Saron, Abinger.
_	
3.1	5 CORRIGHE MOVICE CHASE 3to 110yds C1,258
•	19-3211 MALAWI (34) (D) W Betrell 6-12-2 A Magaire ±
-	The state of the s

2	90-31P	HAO'S WAY (12) J Edwards 8-11-10 M A Fitzge
3	00-0PF4	GIVENTRIS (14) A Tomes 8-11-4
4	212P-FP	GOING ABOURD (47) K Balley 8-11-4
5	Pr-	HAZLE WAND (576) T BJI 9-11-4
	F55P	ITALIAN MAN (9) G Charles-Jones 8-17-4
7	000/5P3-	KHARI LIGHT (292) J Pickering 5-11-4
8	FP5-Q-LI	PRIORY PIPER (41) J Pickenng 7-11-4
9	02/ <b>-</b> 0	REFFTRADE (46) 7 Forster 9-11-4
10	39	THE BOOLEY HOUSE (35) O Sherwood 6-11-4
11	544-PPS	APREL CITY (28) C Smith 7-10-13 M. Ranger 1
TOP P	ORBI TAPS	k Malouri &, Chrontimo 7, Hao's War &
Settin.	e 11-6 Ma	levil, 9-2 The Booley House, 8-1 Hag's Way, Going Around, Giventime, 10-1 Italian
Reflins	rie .	11 m

3.4	5 CAYE BRIEF NOVICE HURDLE 2m 12,474
1	31 DIDEFENCE (50) (D) Mrs J Plyman 5-11-4 W th
2	644521 MEAD COURT (13) N Charge 6-11-4
3	3 BRAVE PATRIARCH (18) N Henderson 5-10-12
4	DEBOS U Pipe 6-10-12
5	02922 DNEAM RIDE (12) (BF) D Nicholson 6-10-12 A Min

Domingody	2	OD BURNES	D BOY (41) G (	harles-Jon	BS 5-11-4			F McParland
Rallien	2	CELTIC I	PALASK K Balley 6	-11-4				The same
McFished	4	ON HOUSE	L 193) SEZBLAST	Peerce 5-1	1-4		- 3	Mary and Mary
Shorratt	5	6 EURIOLE	<b>CHELLABER</b>	(13) 0 No	holson 5-11	4		-
Worthington	l š	A CUMBIE	SID (39) B Pres	nce 5-17-4				
Thornton	7	O JALAPEI	10 (18) N Twist	n-Dames 5	-11-4			Section (S)
Richards	B	O LARKRO	66 (11) S Mello	5-11-4				- D Court (7
Resear #		II ROVAL E	THENT (30) D G	redelle 5-11	-4		B	Forth (III)
	10	O MERCES	CEM (12) C Jac	mon 5_10_1				Loter (a)
10-1 ItsRen Man.	11	(I AYDESUS	l (85) G Bravery	4-10-8				Karl .
11 remotes	12	ORFERS	PRIDE Ma N V	Actuality 4-1	N.R			Numbered /S
	13	OUR WY	N-STON J FitzG	eraid 4-10-				Parent La
	14	2 SWYNPO	RD PRIDE (25)	J Sottomie	4-10-0			Berne
Herston Johnson (2) A Fitzgerald	Betting peno, C	s 9-4 Swynton ettic Past, 8-1	d Pride, 7-1	Jala- I T				
Lower Magains	helpaie	er, Gunvner Sid,	Royal Event	14			猩	
					R/		<b>3</b>	
					FULL	RESUL	T 5 S	FRVIO

5.15 red rum intermediate open national sunt flat (06-2)  $\approx$  0.1,220

2.10 Snow Falton

1.80 (2m Hdie): 1, JEMMEA PUDOLE-DRICK, T Eley 15-11; 2, Meadowstern (10-11 5, Koer's Premises 18-7) 3-1 to Level Epp. 15 (m % 6 (A Streeter) Tote: T480, 12 30 15 30 51 30, Dual F. 512 10. CSF DSC 51 Treeter 238 74. Tree 115.40. CSF CSC Truser CSS 74. Tric C13.40
NR Doby Prices
NR Doby Prices
RESC (2m Million 1, OPERA FAM, R MassSUPERIOR Million 1, OPERA FAM, R MassSUPERIOR CSF (10-1), 5-4 (av Contaur Express,
Dessey Pair (10-1), 5-4 (av Contaur Express,
16 ran 35. 1% (n Morgan) Tota. 518.60;
E2 SA E1 SO. C2 10 Dual F: E90.30 CSF
E11.04. Respective (12-1) 9 ran 35. 12. (A Streether)
Total 2. 10 12 00. C1-20, C2.40. Dual F: E42.0
CSF E11.04. Truser C73.54. Tric E14.30.

3. 10 TAURUS HANDICAP 71 25,379

R Lappin 9 M Feston 6 F Lynch (7) 1 J Stack (3) 5

2.88 (2m 3f Ch): 1, FORTUNES COURSE, G Upton (7-2: 2, Chorus Line COURSE, G Upton (7-2: 2, Chorus Line Course), G. J. Callaghan (16-3): 2, Kittochaide Led (16-1): 3, Radical Choice (9-1): 4, Gran 8, nd. (J King) Toin: £1,80; £1,30; £2.20. CSP 173,93.

2.20 (2m Mids): 1, GUEZBES CONTRACTOR, T Descombe (12-1): 2, In A Moneyted Toir. (5-40; A): 1, GUEZBES CONTRACTOR, T Descombe (12-1): 2, In A Moneyted Toir. (5-1): 4, George Lane (12-1): 27 ran 2½ 3, (C Popham) Toir. (5-1): 4, George Lane (12-1): 27 ran 2½ 3, (C Popham) Toir. (5-1): 4, George Lane (12-1): 27 ran 2½ 3, (C Popham) Toir. (5-1): 4, George Lane (12-1): 27 ran 2½ 3, (C Course JACKPOT: Not won; \$12 380.33 carried for-ward to Tauston today. QUADPOT: 56.10.

2.10 (2m 44 110 yes Ch): 1, JRSER THE KISSER, H Frrant (10-11 fav; 2, Bet Staffloy (7-2): 3, Kockkwarn (14-1): 11 ran, 13, 12, (Mrs.) Pitman) Tote C1.70, 21.50, C1.50, C2.50, Duaf F C4, 10, CSF: C4 53, Trio. F16, 10. P16.10.

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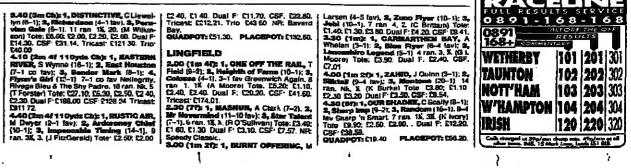
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12.40, 12.40, Dual F. (20.20, CSF- 141.60, Tricest; C174.01.
2.30 (772: 1, MASNUM, A Ctark (7-2). 2, Mr Nevermind (11-10 fav); 3, Star Talent (7-1). 5-ran. 13, 3, (6 O'Sullivan) Tota: 12.40; 11 60, 11:30 Dual F. (2.10, CSF- 17.57, NR Speedy Classic.
3.00 (1m 27): 1, BURNT OFFERING, M



FA Cup, fifth-round replay: Port Vale 1, Leeds United 2

### **McAllister shoots** down valiant Vale

ARY McALLISTER Vale's dream of a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 42 years and kept alive Leeds United's hopes of two Wembley appearances

A header from Leeds United's captain brought the scores level in the second half after Tony Naylor had given the First Division side the lead towards the end of the first. Then with three minutes remaining McAllister swung a typical free-kick into the top right-hand corner of the net to earn Leeds a sixthpool or Charlton.

Having survived the snooker balls of Birmingham City in the Coca-Cola Cup, Leeds ought to have been in the right frame of mind for Burslem, where passions tra-ditionally run high on these occasions, though within stricter limits.

Apparently all Howard Wil-kinson's side had to worry ing to the penultimate rung in ceptive uppearances can be. into the penalty area and Vale Port Vale's perilous position Park roared in vain as the reflected less their recent | winger spun away from the

the team to four league games and had lost only two

Leeds needed to be more aware of the pattern of events which had seen Crystal Pal-ace and Everton held on their own grounds before being dumped out of the competi-tion at Vale Park. They hardly needed reminding of Port Vale's FA Cup tradi-tions, with the semi-finals of 1954 a distant but fond

memory, On reflection, Leeds could have chosen a better evening to be without their regular full-backs, Kelly and Dorigo, both unfit last night. Radebe and Worthington faced Mc-Carthy and Guppy, the wing-ers on whom Port Vale's fortunes were likely to turn. Leeds defended deep, which

meant that for all the wiles of McCarthy and Guppy there were always men back to cover the middle. As it turned not necessarily mean defen-

In the 36th minute Wor-thington followed McCarthy

combination of a cup run and 37th the roars broke out again, this time in earnest. McCarthy, resuming normal last night ended Port matches in eight weeks. In duties on the right flank, drove Vale's dream of a fact they were unbeaten in 11 the ball low into the middle where three Leeds defenders were waiting However, none of them could prevent Naylor

> ahead with a cheeky shot through Lukic's legs. Leeds needed some bromide. Instead they brought on Brolin for the second half, the Swede replacing Masinga, presumably in the hope of finding an alternative force to

darting in to prod Port Vale

Certainly Brolin's clever switches of the play soon began to open up channels for Leeds which had not been there before. This was to bring them a goal and hope. In the 61st minute Guppy

the close-marked McAllister.

found Mills in space near the 18-yard line with the defence retreating, and his shot wen tust wide. Two minutes later cross from the left hung teas ter met the ball with a looping

Port Vele: Musselwhite: Hill Talbot, 88min1. Grilliths, Aspin, Tankard. McCarthy, Walker, Porter, Bogie, Guppy, Naylor (MRs, 55).
Leeds Uniteds Lukic; Fladebe, Beesley, Wetherall. Worthington, Wallace (Gray, 76). Pairner, McAllester, Deane, Yeboah, Mastinga (Brotin, b-1).
Reference P, Durkin (Portland).

Then Dyer, Freedman and combined well to create all

orts of problems.
The Eagles finally feathered

their nest 10 minutes after the break. The full-back Ed-worthy lifted an up and under

into six-yard box, Ndah

jumped with Griemink and, under suspicion of a foul on

the goalkeeper, headed against the bar. But there was

no referee's whistle and the

Palace central defender Davies slammed the loose ball

into the net from close range.

Fry. having already lost Claridge, on the hour took off his striking partner Francis. On came Otto, briefed to pro-duce a piece of his unpredict-

First Division: Crystal Palace 3, Birmingham City 2

### Dyer provides the fire

HATEVER Harry's game is at Crystal Palace, it is working well. Since Bassett took over five games ago, his new side have won three and lost just

A goal from Bruce Dyer eight minutes from time se-cured the points last night only four minutes after Jason Bowen, with his second goal of the game, had equalised for Birmingham. The play-offs heave into sight for Palace. recede for their victims.

Birmingham came into this game dogged by controversy. It concerned their leading scorer Claridge, whose pro-posed £1 million move to Leicester had broken down earlier in the day, allegedly because of the player's high

The striker then asked not

night's game, but Barry Fry | Gordon shooting just wide. refused. However, the player got his wish after turning up late at Selhurst Park, prompting Fry to fine him two weeks wages and declare him not in the right frame of mind to take the field.

It would have been under standable had the rest of the Birmingham side felt the same way, for trying to lift one's spirits two days after losing a Coca-Cola Cup semi-

final is not easy. And not helped by going 1–0 down after only eight minutes last night. Dyer picked up Houghton's nod-on, the Birand the Palace striker was able to turn and shoot home. Buil and Francis had already wasted takeable chances. But out of the blue after 29 minutes of a scrappy game. Bowen scored a swee equaliser, sweeping in Hunt's

last throw. cross from 25 yards out. But Palace soon came back

Southend 0. Sunderland 2

#### Scott gives Southend attack of the vapours

Paul Weaver

SUNDERLAND climbed into second place in the First Division for the first this year at fog-bound Roots Hall last night. A penalty by Martin Scott

and a second goal 10 minutes before the end by the substitute Michael Bridges, who had been on the pitch only 25 seconds, left the club only five points behind Derby. Southend started with the diffidence of a side who had

lost their way with three consecutive defeats after their impressive 2-0 win over Millwall at the beginning of the month.

cutting move for half an hour, when Hone's cross from the right was met by a header then Dublin was penalised for

Until then Given's involve-

after Marsh's free-kick had been only partially cleared.

Sunderland almost scored Sunderland, with only one defeat in their previous eight matches, were no more im-pressive in the first half, and the deadlock for Southend in the 35th minute. He exchanged passes with Ball before putting in a firm left-foot drive which

Sunderland appeared the second half and took the lead in the 53rd minute with a Scott penalty. Phil Gray's shot was saved by Royce but

from Rammell, making his bringing down Howey. Sunhome debut, and Given had to derland do not count their penalties until they have hatched — they had missed six out of nine this season nonchalantly tipping over a but this time Scott stroked half-hearted volley from Hails the ball past Royce for his

again in the 75th minute when Howey hit the bar, and from the rebound Michael Gray had a left-foot shot brilliantly saved by Royce. Five minutes later Bridges replaced Howey and the 17year-old showed a glimpse of his immense promise when he dummied the goalkeeper before scoring. Southeast Royce: Hone, Barness. Dublin (Roget, 70mini, Bodley, Gridelet, Marsh, Byrne, Rammell, Thomson (Jones, 61),



### Doubts clearing as Liverpool give Thomas run of Anfield

Charlton must beware the midfielder with a | tenders Charlton will be | but only got a game now and line in vital-goals, writes **Cynthia Bateman** 

pool after they refused to offer him the twoyear deal he was seeking, Michael Thomas's recent per-formances have persuaded Roy Evans to increase his r to the 28-year-old

fielder to two years. But if Liverpool had hoped Thomas would snatch their hands off they have been disremains on the week-to-week arrangement he has had since his contract finished in the

"We hope to get something

sorted out this week," the manager said yesterday. "Michael knows we want him to stay. am optimistic he will sign."
But Thomas wants to be sure Liverpool can offer him first-team football, "This is effectively going to be the last contract I sign," he said. "If I m in the team then I'd like to mas which won him the Man stay. If I'm not then I've got to of the Match award.

consider my future." In cracking form at the moment. Thomas has taken advantage of Jamie Redknapp's Liverpool pushing the Fremiership leaders, and the First Division promotion con-

HERRAS Ian Rush absence through injury to win course, came from the last kick has announced he back a regular place, with 12 of the match when he played is to leave Liver consecutive appearances and for Arsenal at Antield to deny the decisive goal against Liverpool the Double in 1969. It Blackburn last Saturday.

in England's match against Switzerland three months ago Redknapp is back in the squad for tonight's fifthround FA Cup tie at home to Charlton. Once Redknapp is fully

match-fit, Thomas fears he may again find himself on the sidelines, although anothe possibility is that he might eventually take over the midfield partnership with Redknapp from John Barnes, who will be 33 this year. Liverpool are unbeaten

an impressive performance in the victory against Manches-ter United just before Christ-On Saturday his goal kept

aware that when Thomas scores, his goals tend to

change the course of history. The most famous one, of His dilemma is that in the past Redkmapp has always been picked ahead of him, and for the first time since him for £1.5 million, and his him for £1.5 million, and his next goal at Anneld put Liver

pool through to the sixth round of the FA Cup.

They went on to compete in the final and it was his goal than half Liverpool's which opened the scoring against a disappointing Sun-

Under-19. Under-21 and B honours to two full caps. He | the past." expected to become an Eng-land regular and win more championships and a League

Cup with Arsenal Halfway through this season, however, he had started only 56 of Liverpool's 216 games since he signed. "I had two years of injuries after fielder. Against Thoma coming to Liverpool," he said.
"But then last season I was fit of a 90-minute master class."

again.
"But I have never lost belief in myself. I know I'm good

enough to hold down a regu-lar place. I'm in my prime now so I don't want to be sitting in the reserves. But if I can keep playing like I am at the moment then surely the manager can't leave me out."
Thomas made himself available to other clubs after Liverpool offered him only a

valuation. Serie A's Torino are said to derland, who lost 2-0.

It seemed then that nothing the Bosman ruling Thomas could stop Thomas's glitter could move abroad as a free

ing career, from captain of agent. "It's no good me com-England Schoolboys to High-bury trainee, and via youth, then being left out." he said. "Twe been the scapegoat in But Evans said yesterday: "Michael has worked hard

and done really well for us. We are awaiting his reply." Looking towards the next generation, Liverpool have their eye on Lee Bowyer, Charlton's 19-year-old midfielder. Against Thomas tonight he has the opportunity

## job at Boro

terday became the first English club to have two Brazilians on their books when the Department for Education and Employment finally granted Branco a

work permit. The decision delighted his compatriot Juninho, already at Middlesbrough, and encouraged West Ham and Everton, whose requests for work permits for Romania's ille Dumitrescu and the Swiss Marc Hottiger have been rejected. Neither fulfils the strict criteria laid down by the department but nor does Branco, and both clubs will evidence that the rules can be bent if not broken.

Part of the stipulation regarding the arrival of non-European Union foreigners is that they must have played in at least 75 per cent of their country's internationals over the past two years. Yet the 31-year-old Branco, who has 82 caps, has hardly featured for his country since the 1994 World Cup final However, Middlesbrough successfully argued that this should be overlooked since Brazil sel-dom field their full team.

"The criteria are there as guide and not written in stone," a department spokes-woman said yesterday, "We look at all available evidence and treat each case on its mer-its before making a decision."

Middlesbrough last night and hopes to make his Premiership debut against Everton on Saturday. "We are getting a world-class player whose best years are still ahead of him," said Middlesbrough's man ager Bryan Robson, who played against Branco for England in 1984. "The days of saying that players are past it at 30 are

gone. You are now looking at 35 before you start to dip, and he's only 31. It's a question of whether you have the desire, fitness and experience."

from Aalborg in a £1.4 million deal.

• David Foot writes: Bristol

learn yesterday that the has turned down a new twoyear contract. Uncertainty on Severnside is understood to be a factor. But Ward, formerly a No. 2 with Graham Taylor at Aston Villa, is also posed contract. "It's less than I was offered earlier in the eason," he said. Bristol Rovers' vice-chair-

need to know now whether refuses to sign, then we may have to start looking around



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Stockpart (0) Armstrang 67 7.711 Swances (1) 2 Torpay 36 Hodge 59 Third Division

Bary (0) 2 Carter 66 (pon) Jackson 78 Sarlington (0) Gaughan 83 Exeter (1) 1 Gaves 39 2,663 Oillingham (0) 0 5,557

L Orient (0) 0 3,374 Preston (1) 2 Attensor 5 Saville 85 9,767

SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division Dondoe Utd (3) 4 Browstor 10, 19 McSwegan 30, Coyle 60 York (0) 0 Second Division Agr (0) 2 Hood 65 Sharples 80 Hull (0) O

Dorby 2 IVE OF WALKER Flint 2, Conwy 2, antifraid 1, Barry 1, Cup: Quarter

CS INSURANCE COUNTY CHARPION-SHIP: Southern semi-fissit Middlecex 14. Surray 18. CLUB BLATCHEE: Maesteg 8, Lisnelli 46: Newbridge 29. Pontypool 12; Pontyprod 30. Cross Keys 5. Lydney 20, RAF 6. Cass-celledt Cardill's Bridgord. WRN SEDVERK COMPRETITIONS Pool C: Caerphilly 33, S Wates Police 6.

Hereford (1) 2 Fishlock 20 Smith 66

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNA-

Rugby Union

Tennis

Condiff (0) 0

ETA MEMP'S INDOOR SATELLITE MASproperty (Bull) bt 0 Sets (br) 7-6, 6-1, L

Millipse (GB) bt 9 Humphries (US) 6-2, 6-2, E Rank (Vern) bt J Delpado 6-3, 7-6,

A Richardson (GB) bt C Happard (SA)

6-4, 6-4; D Separtord (GB) bt V Links
(Fin) 7-5, 7-5, A Caroon (Neth) bt G Galimbert (Br 7-6, 6-3; I Headwayer (Switz) bt MANAYA (B) 6-3, 7-6,

WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Easilisigh WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Easilisigh Charles)

Stiriling (0) 1

Gibson 79

Stiriling (0) 1

Gibson (F) bt Milliter (BB) 6-1, 6-4; W

Hampard (B) 6-2, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (C) 1-5, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (C) 1-6, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (C) 1-6, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (C) 1-6, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (C) 1-6, 7-5, 6-1; J Listrova (Riss) bt V

Read (Riss) (Riss

Basketball

Cricket

WILLS WORLD CUP: Group B: Falesta-bads N2 278-6 [R G Twose 92, C M Spear-man 78]. UAE 167-8. NZ won by 109 runs. Palesta Kenya 134 (Straing 5-21). Zimba-bus 137-5 Zimbabwa won by free wideless, NED STRIPE CUP: Charlesthews, Newter Ledwards 295 and 175, Trinidad and Totago 317 and 156-1 (A Balliram Zone, P Serimons 64no). Trinidad and Tobago won by nine wideless.

Ice Hockey

Snooker BUROPEAN OPEN (Maita). First resent D Sloryan (Wales) bt K Payne (Eng) 5-8, 15 Payrett (Eng) bt C Scantor (Eng) 5-8, 15 Honstry (Scott bt N Foulds (Eng) 5-1; K Dotherty (Net) bt M Gempbell (Scott 5-3; J Sat sit (Ni) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-3 **Fixtures** 

Soccer

THE PROPERTY WEAKSTORE Y HUNGEFORT IN.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUER Presenter Physicians Salisbury V Neepport AFC, Editional Divisions Salisbury V Neepport AFC, Editional Divisions Cinderlord In Y Troubridge In. N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Divisions S Heiers In v Maine Road.

FEDERATION BESWERTY MORTHSTEN LEAGUE: First Divisions SHeiers In v Maine Road.

FEDERATION BESWERTY MORTHSTEN LEAGUE: First Divisions Bedington Terriers V Murton, Crook In v Stockton, Epideton CW v Ferryhill Ath, Northern In v Durham C; Seaham RS v South Shields Whithy In v Consett.

MORTHERM COUNTIES BAST LEAGUE: Cup Fourth Trouble Billingham

morpe v Stockport, Shrawabury v Lincoln; Wresham v Darlington. AYON INSURANCE CONBINATION: First Divisions C Paleo v Joseph (7.0):
Oxford Uni v Brighton: Wimbledon v Toitenham (2.0): Portsmouth v Bristy Pere
(7.0): Second Divisioner Cardiff v Cheltenham: Bath v Birmingham.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Ton Pontre v Alan
Life Committee of the Cardiff v Cheltenham: Bath v Birmingham.

SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Gallingham v West Ham Und (2.0). Double: President's Cupe Third reused: Strendord v Fulkam (2.0); L Orient v Northampton (7.0); Woldingham Tin v South-

end Utd. UL-18 INTERNATIONAL: France v Eng Rugby Union REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Com-bined London OB v Keni (NeiWest Ground, Bedienham); Glesgow U-19 v Edinburgh U-19 (7 0, Ayr). CLUS MATCHES: Cambridge Univ v Anti-

Basketball EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: F England (5.0).

● J R Reid of the New York Knicks was suspended for two games without pay and fined \$10,000 by the National Eskethall Association for flagrantly elbowing Phoenis's A C Green in the mouth. "This was very much comparable to a punch," Roid Thom, the NBA's vice-president of operations, said after announcing the penalty. Reid imodesd out two of Green's seeth during Sunday's game. Green played past 68 seconds in Procents's 110-67 lose at Utah on Monday night, cretching his consecutive games streak alive to 765. The resque record of 506 is held by Randy Smith."

"It's an unfortunate incedent." the Knickel president Envis Grunded said. "We don't comdone this type of behavior. J R

The Scottish Sports Council has legenched a grant programme called World Class Scotland to help athletes with train-ing costs. National bodies have been asked to nominate Scotten performers for selected awards of between \$5,000 and \$10,000. which will be amounced next month.

#### Sport in brief \*

Stephen Hendry showed that his surprise second-round de-feat in last week's International Open was merely an off day by convincingly beating Neal Foulds 5-1 to reach the last 16 of the European Open in Malta yesterday, writes

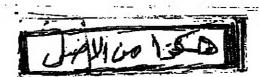
Clive Everton. The world champion, attempting to win the tournament for the third year in succession, required only 80 minutes to complete victory. thanks largely to breaks of 57 88, 96 and 118.

**Athletics** 

Donovan Bailey's 50 metres world record performance at the Reno Air Games this month is to be submitted to the IAAF for ratification. The Canadian's time of 5.56sec on February 9 had been questioned but a television slowmotion replay shows Bailey was not moving before the gun sounded. China's Sun Calyun cleared

4.28m to break her own indoor pole vault world record of 4.27m in Tianjin. Golf

The PGA European Tour has announced a new tournament, the Oki Pro-Am, to be played at La Moreleja in Madrid from October 10-13.



Rebels play

#### WORLD CUP CRICKET

Group A: India v Australia

## Waugh silences India's big guns hard to get

Derek Grundy in Bombay

T HAD been billed as Tendulkar v Warne, but in the event the first genuheavyweight contest of the World Cup turned out to be a gripping Tendulkar v Waugh, Mark, affair.

And nobody in the 40,000 crowd that packed in for the Wankhede Stadium's first day-night match was asking for a refund, after a chanceless 126 by Waugh — who then dismissed the local hero with a wide off-break - condemned India to a 16-run de-

	-
AUSTRALIA	
M E Waugh run out	125
"M A Taylor & Sringth	
b Venkalapathy Raju	59
R T Ponting c Manirekar	-
b Venkampathy Raju	
S A Waugh run out	7
S G Law c & b Kumbie	21
M G Bevan run out	6
S Lee run aul	
†! A Healy c Kumble	
b Venketesh Prased	
S K Warne c Acharuddin	_
b Ventatesh Presad	
O W Fleming run out	ō
G D McGrath not out	ŏ
Future (Ibs 7 abril	12
Extras (lb8, w2, nb2)	72

Match performance left India facing an awkward quarterfinal against either South Africa or Pakistan.

A game of dramatic fluctuations and surprises — any day when Indian fielding produces five run-outs must count as extraordinary -ended with the last ball of the ing claimed his fifth wicket by bowling Anil Kumble for with India mustering 242

in reply to Australia's 258. that Sachin Tendulkar would win the match off his own bat. Undaunted by the fall of his

in a daring innings of 90, smacked off 84 balls with 14 fours and a six.

Warne was the only bowler to command any respect from Tendulkar; there was a suspicion that the prodigy did not always "pick" Warne, who took only one wicket but turned the ball prodigiously and applied the screws with 10 overs for only 28 runs. When Tendulkar was even

tually stumped with the score on 143, chasing the wide one from Waugh, he and Sanjay Manjrekar had added 72 in 16 overs for the fourth wicket. Home hopes dipped as Manoj Prabhakar again did not fit the role of a No. 6, but Manjrekar and the little wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia, who made an impish 27 as the

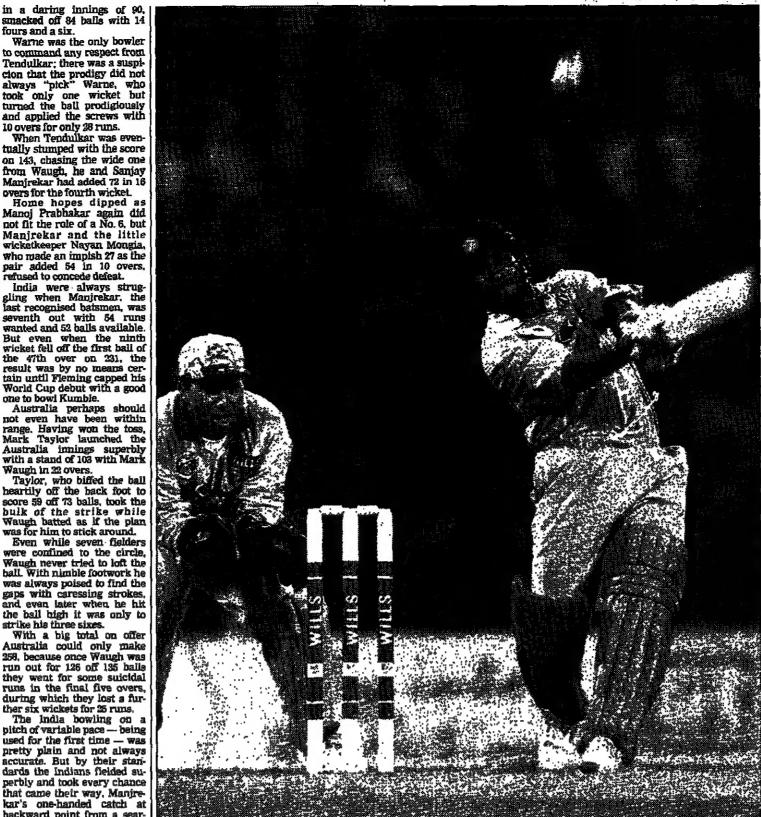
refused to concede defeat. India were always struggling when Manjrekar, the last recognised batsmen, was seventh out with 54 runs wanted and 52 balls available. But even when the ninth wicket fell off the first ball of the 47th over on 231, the result was by no means cer-tain until Fleming capped his World Cup debut with a good one to bowl Kumble.

Australia perhaps should not even have been within range. Having won the toss, Mark Taylor launched the Australia innings superbly with a stand of 103 with Mark

Waugh in 22 overs. Taylor, who biffed the ball heartily off the back foot to score 59 off 73 balls, took the bulk of the strike while Waugh batted as if the plan was for him to stick around. Even while seven fielders were confined to the circle, Waugh never tried to loft the ball. With nimble footwork he was always poised to find the gaps with caressing strokes, and even later when he hit

strike his three sixes. With a big total on offer Australia could only make 258, because once Waugh was run out for 126 off 135 balls they went for some suicidal runs in the final five overs, during which they lost a further six wickets for 25 runs. The India bowling on a

used for the first time — was pretty plain and not always dards the Indians fielded superbly and took every chance that came their way. Manire kar's one-handed catch at backward point from a searfirst two partners in the open-ing six overs he rode his luck ing being quite outstanding.



Masterstroke . . . Tendulkar lets fly during his brilliant innings of 90 against Australia

#### Zimbabwe's Strang arm destroys African rivals

match in Paina but ther were few alarms on the field as Zimbabwe exerted their Test-playing authority in

beating Kenya.

Kenya were dismissed for 134 with two balls of their 50 overs remaining, and although weather of the chase they eventually won by five wickets

with 7.4 overs remaining. Sent in to bat, Kenya collapsed after a steady start saw them reach 60 for one. Four wickets fell in the space of seven runs and 32 balls and then the leg-spinner Paul Strang took all the remaining

And then when they did try to play some big shots they got

Andy Flower (45) but then fell

New Zealand crushed the United Arab Emirates by 109 runs in the day's other game. in Faisalabad, to clinch a

innings reduced to 47 overs after mist delayed the start. "I was lucky today." Strang sold. "I bowled some loose stuff early on and I could have gone all over the sold." I sold the stant walkant unbeaten 47 from 59 balls as the IIAF

said. "I howled some loose	valiant unbeaten 47 from 59	
stuff early on and I could	balls as the UAE struggled to	
have gone all over the park.	167 for nine.	
And then when they did try to	GROUPA PWLTN:PH RR	
play some big shots they got	Sri Lanka . 3 3 0 0 0 6 163	
out	Australia 3 2 1 0 0 4 1.13	
"I love the wickets here. It	West India 3 1 2 0 0 4 0.50	
	West indies 3 1 2 0 0 2 0.50 Zimbabwe 3 1 2 0 0 2 0.63	
turns and bounces a lot more	Kenya 3 0 3 0 0 0 -124	
on the pitches here."		
The opener Deepak Chuda-	GROUP B PW L THEPE AR	
	South Africa 3 3 0 0 0 6 2.11	
sama (34) and the captain	New Zootand 4 3 1 0 0 6 094	
Maurice Odumbe (30) were	Pakistan 2 2 0 0 0 4 242	
	England 4 2 2 0 0 4 0.14	
the major contributors to Ke-	Holland 3 0 3 0 0 0 -192	
nya's score. Zimbabwe were	UAE 4 0 4 0 0 0 -253	

### Players caught up in cola war

FIGHTING broke out in the given a strong start by Andy crowd at the all-Africa Waller (30 off 32 balls) and conflict fizzing over at the World Cup

in Faisslahad, to clinch a place in the quarter-finals.

Roger Twose, the Devonian turned New Zealander, narrowly missed out on his maiden one-day international century. The former Warwickshire left-hander made 92 off 112 balls.

Craig Spearman scored a forceful 78 from 77 balls to help New Zealand pile up an unbeatable 276 for eight in an innings reduced to 47 overs

personal one. Coca-Cola has contributed millions of dollars to become an official sponsor of the competition and has isunched a massive cam-paign involving television tain Azbaruddin were care and the distribution of and newspaper promotions. ful to dissociate themselves T-shirts to the crowd. prominent and extensive from the official sponsor. Most damaging of all. peripheral advertising, taking their refreshment huge inflatable bottles hov-

HE two great cola attack with a series of TV companies of the advertisements featuring world have been at log- leading players such as Wa-

- the highest earner in the game, thanks among other entures to a contract with Pepsi reportedly worth about \$8 million (£5.2 mil-

ering over the cricket grounds, and novelty carts in the shape of the trade-in the shape of the trade-

from a promotional video of an official World Co song, the showing of which infringes the terms of his contract with Pepsi which lasts until the end of next

said Wasim, "not only en-dangers my contract but jeopardises my credibility in the eyes of the general public. As such I do not want to associate myself

way."
Once Pepsi realised that
its rival had paid \$3.7 million to become an official sponsor, a riposte was al-most inevitable and few stones have been left un-turned in an attempt to make capital, with board-

Pepsi launched a TV adver-tising counter-campaign in which the contracted per-sonalities are offered the official drink but shake mark bottle wheeled on for the date to competition organiser Pil- their heads in disgust, might have foreseen and the Pakistan Television stead and attering the paylas mounted a counter- Corporation to remove an- off line: "Pepsi: nothing before the next World Cap.

authorised shots of him official about to Pilcom, abo out the activities around the grounds in particular, has met with lit-tle success, as the organisers concede reluctantly that there is little they can do about it.

In truth there were always going to be conflicts

of interest once teams began to take on board their own official sponsors and as the marketability of players increased. England, for example, have their own deal with Tetley but like all teams in the tournament must not wear any other logo than that of the main tournament sponsor,

It is a situation that Tetley accept with reluctance. In the cola war, however, the participation of Cork in the rival campaign, whether through his own agent or as part of a team pool, raises the sort of ethical as well as contractual problems that the Test and County Cricket Board

**Rugby League** 

HE one thing that now seems certain in a complex situation is that the Australian Super League will not start on Friday as planned. A ban on the Super League, in the form of ruled are binding. an interim injunction, was Some players co confirmed in Sydney yesterday by Justice James Bur-chett, who had ruled the

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, backer of the Super League, has appealed for a stay of proceedings but that will not be heard until

Ken Arthurson, chairman of the Australian Rugby League, is hoping that "sanity will now prevail" at a meet-ing of clubs called for today. Arthurson wants all 26 clubs, those who have remained loyal to the ARL and eight "rebel" Super League clubs, to attend, but none of the rebels were at an emergency meeting yesterday. If that boycott were

repeated the ARL's competi-tion, also due to start on Friday, would be thrown into doubt Arthurson remains op-timistic, however, He said that confusion had been created in the minds of the public but now the matter had been clarified. "I think once we get

together ... sanity will pre-vail and we will be able to get down to some reasonable thinking. I think our competition will go ahead as we antic-ipated it would." The eight "rabel" clubs

were ordered to return to the ARL under Justice Burchett's

defy the ruling by fielding

According to a lawyer for the ARL, however, that would leave them liable to "very, very severe" fines under the terms of loyalty agreements they-signed in 1994 and 1995 which Justice Burchett has

Some players could be lost to the game. The brilliant Laurie Daley, of the Canberra Raiders, is threatening to fulorganisation illegal last fil a lifetime's "burning" ambition and switch to Australian Rules Football if he

The great worry in England, meanwhile, concerns the eight-club world championship play-offs, which were to form the spectacular and lucrative finale to the first Super League seasons in Europe and Australasia.

Brian Smith, Bradford Bulls' head coach and chief executive, cannot be certain what the future holds but he was confident yesterday that the play-offs would take place. "I would advise anyone with ideas that the world championships will not take place to put those plans in their back pockets," he said.

Bradford have signed a sponsorship deal with Compaq, the computer company, worth about £150,000 a year. As part of the deal computers will analyse players' perfor-mances, using software introduced by Smith.

Warrington and Castleford are both chasing Richard Henare, Carlisle's New Zealand three-quarter. Phil Veivers is unhappy

about being placed on offer at £25,000 by St Helens. The 31-year-old utility player joined Saints from Brisbane Souths in 1964 and has made 379 apruling last week, but could pearances for the club.

#### **England deprived of their** necessities in Moscow

NGLAND are ready to Moscow after learning that they must take on Russia in the European Championship the European Championship tonight without their shifting Peter Scantlebury and their outstanding player; \$12.4 a Bucknall. "This leaves me paralysed," said their coach

Bucknell pulled out after the process of scoring 24 points for the London Towers against Worthing Bears on Sunday. Scantlebury's eye in-fection, sufficiently improved another doctor's appointment yesterday.

yesterday.

Nemeth was livid. "We didn't have too much of a chance to start with. Now what chance do we have?"

### Command Inc.

### Comm Nemeth was prevented prepared and laid out." from calling up replacements because visas would not have been issued at such short notice. Roger Huggins, the

If it was the Russian food which dissuaded the two key performers from accompanying their team-mates on Monday's flight from Gatwick. they need not have worried. "This is the first time it's teen edible," the team man-ager Mick Byrne commented. Neither player has ever made any secret of his dislike for eastern Europe. Bucknall

Rngland Player of the Year. takes over as captain.

was missing from previous aggravating a groin strain in trips to Poland and Latvia and Scantisbury recalls Eng-land's last trip to Moscow It is not Karl Brown's favourite place either but the A complaint by Coca-Cola to enable him to play for the Leopards guard has taken the Thames Valley Tigers on Sun-) precaution of bringing his day, nevertheless required own food — cans and boxes of tuna, sardines, cream crack-ers, baked beans, German hot

MINIAMEN Assets, Gardiner (London Townes), Bissier, Brown, Whyte (Leopards), Naugains (Sheffeld), Payes (Simingitam), Simens (Derby), Vastiletia (Newcastin

#### Squash

#### Parke back for British Open

testicular cancer, diagnosed two months ago, writes

SIMON PARKE, the No. 1 started playing again this player in England's world title-winning team in November, has successfully finished a course of chemotherapy for pecting too much for me to be at my best," he said.
Parke's former team-mate

Richard Jago.
Parke, the world No. 5, has last year's British Open final, entered the British Open in has not entered the tourna-Cardiff in the first week in April and expects to play in what will be the world's leading tournament. "I have tigue syndrome.

**Rugby Union** 

### Jones the medic is a tonic for Wales

**Cavid Plummer** on the rapid rise of the flanker with a big Saturday job in Dublin

IX weeks ago Gwyn | Kronfeld mould but he is lones was a name little (known in rugby circles outside Wales. When he made his interna-tional debut against Italy in day international back rows. January the photographs sent | but his primary asset is not so out to the media bore the cap-

tion "Rhodri Jones". There is a Rhodri Jones playing first-class rugby in as well as attack. Now that Wales - the brother of the huge Wales lock Derwyn, that virtues of width. Jones is an worlds at the moment and, as

more resolute in defence than the New Zealander. At 6ft and 15 stone he is small alongside much his pace as his anticipa-tion, his ability to materialise at crucial moments in defence unassuming but essential cog | long as my studies last, there

back five for Aberavon — but after three impressive internationals against Italy. Engineers in the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming a full-time rugby player. It is no question of my becoming a full-time rugby player. It is no question of my becoming a full-time rugby player. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is no question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is not question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is not question of my becoming the saide's game plan. It is not question of my becoming the saide sai

Jones is following his

parents into medicine - Alun in Swansea — but recognises that he will probably have to make a choice between his career off the field and rugby. "It is not a question of money," he said. "Medicine is not a badly paid profession and rugby does not compare in terms of potential income.

Jones is a traditional break. Medicine, sitting exams every cause I enjoy the game.

"Where trying to combine a career in medicine and rugby could be difficult is if all the part-timer, both in terms of Things are changing by the week, but so far I can marry the demands of both."

It means Jones has little spare time, however. He lives in Cardiff, is currently gainand and Scotland, nobody lime players, the 23-year-old player has never been some calls Rhodri Gwyn Jones as fourth year student at the thing which has concerned thing which has concerned like thing which has concerned thing which has concerned like Royal Gwent Hospital in the Roya - staying loyal to the club self in the Llanelli side and favour. The young Llanelli

his finals in the summer of saying that last season after year out with injury, even "I guess I have a lot to 1997 when the Lions will be being sidelined for nine though a club in east Wales touring South Africa on their months following a shoulder operation." I could never leave Lianthat tactics based on support

top players become profes-sional. Trying to compete as a part of the club, and more than any other team in Wales competing against your rivals for a place in the Wales team and of acquitting yourself well on the rugby field, would undoubtedly be difficult.

The competing against your rivals they embrace the style of rugby Wales have adopted this season. I could not imagine playing for anyone else."

Jones won his A cap against Canada two years ago having move to the next stage and risen through the Under-21s, but he injured his shoulder in • The 20-year-old Neath fullthat match and returned to back Richard Jones was yes-first-class action only last Oc-tober. Within weeks he was in Wales A debut on Friday the senior squad.

away flanker in the Josh | two months and due to take | though I suppose I was not | who stood by him during his | steering clear of injuries.

elli," said Jones. "They have and continuity could triumph been tremendous to me and I over the power game. New over the power game. New World Cup and we are looking to recreate that dynamism with Wales.

"We may have lost our opening two matches but we created chances and showed what we are capable of. Against Ireland we have to Jones ... great anticipation

win.

The 20-year-old Neath fullback Richard Jones was yesterday named to make his Wales A debut on Friday against Ireland A. The former Wales Youth captain replaces Crispin Cormack, with the fitagain Mike Rayer still out of favour. The young Lianelli lock Paul Jones will also

Make his A-team debut.

Wales A (virtual A at Donnwirton Dubin, Mar 1: A Jones (Newstasa), M Wales, Cardiff). Post John (Pontypridd), C Londer (Swansas), M Medical (Cardiff). Post John (Pontypridd), C Londer (Swansas), M Wales (Newbridge), M Williams (Pontypridd), S Daview (Swansas).

Williams (Pontypridd), S Daview (Swansas), M Wales (Pontypridd), M Boobper, M Harries (Nowport), D Morris, Barrie Williams (Nowport), D Morris, Barrie





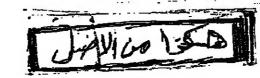
Wigan games

firm hand-off DATE'S England centre Deremy Guscott will boycott two proposed

games against the rugby league champions Wigan in May, writes David Irvine. Yesterday he dismissed the idea of the cross-code challenge as "a pointless exercise".

Guscott said: "They would thrash us at league and we would thrash them at union. I am sure someone could come up with a better idea, some sort of compromise. As it stands now I, for one, will not be plaving.

Orrell, Bath's Courage League One rivals, are to help their neighbours Wigan prepare for the games. Peter Williams, Or-reil's director of rugby, confirmed that his pack will be working with Wigan on their line-out and



# ortsGuardian

#### MASTER MARKSMAN ANNOUNCES THE LEAVING OF LIVERPOOL AFTER 16 YEARS

An Anfield era is about to end. Ian Ross looks back over its spectacularly striking success

## Rush seeking new goals

relationship with Liver-pool will end in a free transfer this summer. The man widely ac-knowledged as the finest British striker of his generation is to leave the Merseyside club after 16 years of remarkable achievement and

The 34-year-old Welsh inter national announced his decision yesterday after spending the past few weeks pondering precisely where he would like to be when the curtain finally descends on a famous career. "My heart is still here with Liverpool and probably always will be, but the bottom line is that I am a profes-sional footballer and I must look to the future." he said.

with the deep regret of one about to end a glorious love affair.
Rush has decided to abandon his attempts to reclaim the first-team berth he so ing first-team football," he reluctantly surrendered to said. "I am confident that I Stan Collymore this season. Even so, he conceded yester-day that in an ideal world he would have liked to remain at Antileld until his retirement

from playing.
"I have always said that I would like to finish here, but it's not to be," he said. "Clearly the time to move on has arrived; I must look to the future and so must

Liverpool."
Rush's departure will signal the end of an era at the most successful club in the history of British football, as he is the only member of the current Liverpool squad to have been signed by Bob Pais-ley, who died this month.

Paisley described Rush as a "rough diamond" when he bought him from Chester for only £300,000 in May 1980. The realised and 18 months ago he surpassed Roger Hunt's tally of 285 senior goals to become Liverpool's all-time leading

As with all sportsmen of impeccable pedigree the sta-tistics speak for themselves. In 649 appearances for Liver-pool, Rush has scored 345 goals — 228 in the league, 39 in the FA Cup, 48 in the League Cup. 20 in European fixtures, three in Charity Shields and seven others.

He is also Wales's all-time record scorer with 28 goals in

Among his many club feats are the five Wembley goals — four against Everton — that make him the leading individual scorer in FA Cup finals. His sense of occasion was also hat-trick on his 600th Liverpool appearance in a Coca-Cola Cup win over Blackburn

Rush has left Liverpool once before, joining Juventus in a £3.2 million deal, only to return in 1987 after an unful-

filling season in Italy.

Although Rush has spent the past few months discussing the prospect of a new contract with Liverpool's manager Roy Evans, he could not reach agreement simply because the club were not prepared to offer him the two-year deal he is

seeking.
"I do believe that I have two good years in me and I want to spend those two years playcan do a good job, that I can score goals for somebody,

"Liverpool have been great to me and we have now ment. I will stay on here until the end of the season and then decide what to do. With the transfer deadline coming up next month I was anxious to go, but I do appreciate Liver-

"It would have been easy for me to stay on the substitutes' bench and to keep on taking the money, but I'm not

Rush may have entered the twilight of his career but there will be no shortage of takers for a player who actu-ally weighs less now than when he joined Liverpool. indeed, over the past nine months no fewer than 14 clubs at home and abroad have attempted to lure him away from Antield.

Rust will demand a sign-ing of fee of around £500,000 a to week. Even so, he is likely to find himself very much in "Where can you find some

one to replace lan Rush?" asked Evans yesterday. "I don't want to lose him but he wants regular first-team football, and, bearing in mind his stature and abil-ity, that is perfectly understandable."



Still lean and hungry . . . Ian Rush, now 34, believes he can go on playing for another two years гнотозварн; stuast framcin

### Defiance left on a cutting room floor



Vincent Hanna

grocer and military historian is in a huff Atherton's fault.

George is a former soldier To hear him in the pub you'd swear he took Caen singlehanded. Actually he was a sap-per; he was invalided out when he accidentally blew a hole in a British parade ground near Hanover and then fell into it.

But George understands the English character and is for-ever the optimist. He arrived in the shed on Sunday when England were 99 for seven.
"We're lulling the South
Africans into a false sense of security," he said confidently. "Just watch Athers stage another rearguard action. He'll bat through tomorrow and get

a draw." I pointed out that it was a one-day match, and besides Atherton was already out for a duck. George pondered this.
"Do you know they've deliberately given us bad practice facilities?" he snapped. "Any-way I'll be queuing up for the new video tomorrow." He slammed the shed door after

A quick word about the shed. Because of terrible snow in Kent we have had power cuts. Since the shed has a storage heater it remains warm for a long time. Facing hypothermia, my wife sought all-party talks and I've been able to renegotiate minimal sports viewing rights in the house. They cover seccer and rugby only. Cricket is still barred.

EORGE was back on the phone yesterday. "Good old Athers!" out Illingworth, didn't he?" It was an understandable mistake. Hearing Mike cry "Somebody get that buffoon African same, raised our ager. Alas, Mike had again ig-nored the central tenet of every English cricket cap-tain's code: when in a hole

stop digging. Talking about Raymond Illingworth: to paraphrase Paddy Ashdown on the Scott report, can you think of any other organisation in Britain except perhaps British Gas,

a record like his would be allowed to hang on to his job? Instead it's poor old Athers who is holed up in his room. Illy dangles there because cricket does not command mass support. If he managed the England football team he would have been shot months ago. Graham Taylor went back to Watford on Saturday, they lost 3-2 and by 5 o'clock wags in the crowd were call-

ing for his resignation.
I explained to George about the Pakistani journalist and the apology. He said it was a "put-up job" and hadn't we sorted out the Dutch team even without Ruud Gullit? He said he'd be round later with the video. I said I couldn't

wait. I didn't mean it.

I am well fed up with what,
until yesterday, has been a
farce of a cricket competition. from Sachin Tendulkar and the India-Australia game it has been tedious. The unextended in pursuit of the

HE English cricket ira-dition is the antithesis of the one-day game. The Empire was built on a foundation of character and constancy. And cricket should bread both. "If I knew that I was going to die today, said G H Hardy, "I think I should still want to hear the cricket scores." Kipling would have scorned the flashy strokes of 50-over games. George embodies those qualities. His military stories

extol the great sieges: Masada, Malta, Khartoum — "the real fiveday games," he calls them. The Charge of the Light Brigade he regards as a stupid limited-overs match at Balaclava, in the middle of the Se-

vastopol Test.
Yesterday George arrived
with his new video, Atherion's
Innings, which went on sale this week. It is a record of the siege of Johannesburg, Eng-land v South Africa 12 weeks ago. George says Mike's unde-leated 185 ranks up there with Baden-Powell's 217 days at Mafeking as our country's greatest moment in Africa For both men achieved what all great English leaders devoutly - and instinctively desire . . . a draw.

It is a smartly pres package, featuring a long in-terview with Atherton. But saying he'd "wasted £12.99 on subversive rubbish". It runs minutes is the actual innines Over 10 hours of heroic and boring defiance left on the cuting-room floor.

But how do you expect 20th Century Fox to understand that the English love permanance more than beauty?

### Sky offers £25 million to snatch the Open

**L**which last year showed Europe's Ryder Cup triumph in Rochester. New York State, is now set ting its sights on golf's

Open Championship.

A five-year contract worth £25 million is reported to have been offered by BSkyB, fully in the first and the particularly want to become a larly want to become a listed event because that takes away our negotiating to a lot of people. We don't perticularly want to become a listed event because that takes away our negotiating day that he wants the eight power. I'm not saying what events protected for five

Royal Lytham. Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Club, said yesterday: "No decision has been made yet. We are still talkhave to weigh that up against what we could do with the extra money.
"We could put it back into golf and help a lot of

The original paper

**AVERAGE 50 LEAVES** 

UPERT MURDOCH's aware that the BBC's cur-satellite television rent deal expires after this company BSkyB. July's championship at But Bonallack said: "We decision." These eight listed events

and both soccer cup finals in England and Scotland,

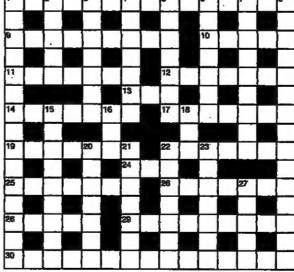
The firzt and still the bezt.

years from being bought attempted to secure the for exclusive screening by listed events for terrestrial any pay-for-view television channels.

The Government was defeated in the House of Lords this month during the de-bate on the new Broadcasting Bill which reaches the Commons next month. An amendment introduced by for Sport Lord Howell had

#### Guardian Crossword No 20,587

Set by Araucaria



Across

1 Clue to give catcall (just so for stage show (3,5,2,5)

Dominate one obviously in

10 Plantagenet sign gathering dust? (5) 11 Outstanding work of art

falsehood (7) 12 Land turned over on a site (7)

13 See 24 14 Border security could have

tatal consequences (7) 17 Add spirit to double score, if put in (7)

19 Seek lad wandering either side of the Border (7)

22 Type of dats in 11, badly placed in slope (7) 24,26,13 Sing low - threat

Uttered by nightly singer in winter (3,7,3) 25 Mechanised combat wh

salior holds an amount of

28 See 8

29 Dalsy, a kid Bruce got trivolved with (9) 30 Lees than candid news paper backing right answer for one with child (15)

Down

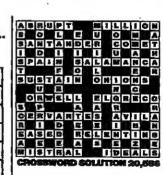
1 Low frequency from Whitemoor Street (3,2,5,5) 2 Mutton on plates in Surrey (5)

3 Active personality after non-starting period (2,3,2) 4 Latest feshion to be stunning to Welsh girl climber (3,4)

6 Sort of cap worn by sainted

5 Royal speaker to emphasise breaking of rules (?)

queen or gang member (7) 7 Doubly lovey-dovey bird (9) 8,28 People with me when Great North-Eastern's



wrecked by greater one with warrant (7,8-5) 15 Potty sort of conservation?

16,18 Pass the Guardian's

20 One, two, three letters in

sequence as a minimum (2.5) 21 Place in Staffordshire, and

partly rural Italian first (7) 22 Busy creatures include small investor as well (7)

23 Walk down the avenue with an unconvincing US lawman

27 Hint how to remove head from shellfish (5)

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